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PREFACE.

No method has ever been contrived for stimulating the curiosity of youth, equal to the stories founded on the Roscicrusion system; or what usage may denominate the mythology of modern poetry.

Many collections of such stories have within the last century appeared in the English language; but many of them are so obsolete in their style, so gross in their morals, and so vulgar in their details, as to be altogether unfit for the purposes to which they seem to have been adapted. Of this fact, every tender mother, and every intelligent tutor, must be so sensible, that they will hail with satisfaction the appearance of a selection of the most interesting of these stories, in which an attempt is made to elevate the language and sentiments to a level with the refined manners of the present age.

The titles of the several stories will bespeak the great interest of the work, and its paramount claim to a place in every family where there are children and young persons.

It has been the object of the Editor, besides that of collecting the best of these stories, to print the volume of such a size and price as should render it attainable to the class of readers for which it is intended. He dismisses the undertaking with the persuasion that it will be found to be one of the most entertaining volumes in any language.

B. TABART.

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CINDERELLA;

OR THE LITTLE GLASS SLIPPER.

THERE was once a very rich gentleman who lost his wife; and having loved her exceedingly, he was very sorry when she died. Finding himself quite unhappy for her loss, he resolved to marry a second time, thinking by this means he should be as happy as before. Unfortunately, however, the lady he chanced to fix upon was the proudest and most haughty woman ever known; she was always out of humour with every one; nobody could please her, and she returned the civilities of those about her with the most affronting disdain. She had two daughters by a former husband, whom she brought up to be proud and idle: indeed, in temper and behaviour they perfectly resembled their mother; they did not love their books, and would not learn to work; in short, they were disliked by everybody.

The gentleman on his side too had a daughter, who in sweetness of temper and carriage was the exact likeness of her own mother, whose death he had so much lamented, and whose tender care of the little girl he was in hopes to see replaced by that of his new bride.

But scarcely was the marriage ceremony over, before his wife began to shew her real temper: she could not bear the pretty little girl, because her sweet obliging manners made those of her own daughters appear a thousand times the more odious and disagreeable.

She therefore ordered her to live in the kitchen;

and, if ever she brought any thing into the parlour, always scolded her till she was out of sight. She made her work with the servants in washing the dishes, and rubbing the tables and chairs; it was her place to clean madam's chamber, and that of the misses her daughters, which was all inlaid, had beds of the newest fashion, and looking-glasses so long and broad, that they saw themselves from head to foot in them; while the little creature herself was forced to sleep up in a sorry garret, upon a wretched straw bed, without curtains, or any thing to make her comfortable.

The poor child bore all this with the greatest patience, not daring to complain to her father, who, she feared, would only reprove her, for she saw that his wife governed him entirely. When she had done all her work she used to sit in the chimney corner among the cinders; so that in the house she went by the name of Cinderbreech: the youngest of the two sisters, however, being rather more civil than the eldest, called her Cinderella. And Cinderella, dirty and ragged as she was, as often happens in such cases, was a thousand times prettier than her sisters, drest out in all their splendour.

It happened that the king's son gave a ball, to which he invited allthe persons of fashion in the country: our two misses were of the number; for the king's son did not know how disagreeable they were; but supposed, as they were so much indulged, that they were extremely amiable. He did not invite Cinderella, for he had never seen nor heard of her.

The two sisters began immediately to be very busy in preparing for the happy day: nothing could exceed their joy; every moment of their time was spent in fancying such gowns, shoes, and head-dresses as would set them off to the greatest advantage. All this was new vexation to poor Cinderella, for it was she who ironed and plaited her sister's linen. They talked of nothing but how they should be dressed: "I," said the eldest, "will wear my scarlet velvet with French trimming." "And I," said the youngest,

"shall wear the same petticoat I had made for the last ball: but then to make amends for that, I shall put on my gold muslin train, and wear my diamonds in my hair; with these I must certainly look well." They sent several miles for the best hair dresser that was to be had, and all their ornaments were bought at the most fashionable shops.

On the morning of the ball they called up Cinderella to consult with her about their dress, for they knew she had a great deal of taste. Cinderella gave them the best advice she could, and even offered to assist in adjusting their head-dresses; which was exactly what they wanted, and they accordingly accepted her proposal.

While Cinderella was busily engaged in dressing her sisters, they said to her, "Should you not like, Cinderella, to go to the ball?" "Ah!" replied Cinderella, "you are only laughing at me; it is not for such as I am to think of going to balls." "You are in the right," said they: "folks might laugh, indeed, to see a Cinderbreech dancing in a ball-room."

Any other than Cinderella would have tried to make the haughty creatures look as ugly as she could; but the sweet-tempered girl, on the contrary, did every thing she could think of to make them look well.

The sisters had scarcely eaten any thing for two days, so great was their joy as the happy day drew near. More than a dozen laces were broken in endeavouring to give them a fine slender shape, and they were always before the looking-glass.

At length the much-wished-for moment arrived: the proud misses stepped into a beautiful carriage, and, followed by servants in rich liveries, drove towards the palace. Cinderella followed them with her eyes as far as she could; and when they were out of sight, she sat down in a corner and began to cry.

Her godmother, who saw her in tears, asked what ailed her. "I wish——I w-i-s-h—" sobbed poor Cinderella, without being able to say another word.

The godmother, who was a fairy, said to her, "You

wish to go to the ball, Cinderella, is not this the truth?" "Alas! yes," replied the poor child, sobbing still more than before. "Well, well, be a good girl," said the godmother, "and you shall go."

She then led Cinderella to her bed-chamber, and said to her: "Run into the garden and bring me a pumpion." Cinderella flew like lightning, and brought the finest she could lay hold of. Her godmother scooped out the inside, leaving nothing but the rind; she then struck it with her wand, and the pumpion instantly became a fine coach gilded all over with gold. She next looked into her mouse trap, where she found six mice all alive and brisk: she told Cinderella to lift up the door of the trap very gently; and as the mice passed out, she touched them one by one with her hand, and each immediately became a beautiful horse, of a fine dapple grey mouse colour. "Here my child," said the godmother "is a coach and horses too, as handsome as your sisters': but what shall we do for a postillion?"

"I will run," replied Cinderella, "and see if there be not a rat in the rat-trap: if I find one, he will do very well for a postillion."

"Well thought of, my child!" said her godmother: "make what haste you can."

Cinderella brought the rat-trap, which, to her great joy, contained three of the largest rats ever seen. The fairy chose the one which had the longest beard; and touching him with her wand, he was instantly turned into a smart handsome postillion, with the finest pair of whiskers imaginable.

She next said to Cinderella: "Go again into the garden, and you will find six lizards behind the watering-pot; bring them hither." This was no sooner done, than with a stroke from the fairy's wand they were changed into six footmen, who all immediately jumped up behind the coach in their laced liveries, and stood side by side as cleverly as if they had been used to nothing else the whole of their lives.

The fairy then said to Cinderella: "Well, my dear,

is not this such an equipage as you could wish for to take you to the ball? Are you not delighted with it?" "Y-e-s," replied Cinderella with hesitation; "but must I go thither in these filthy rags?"

Her godmother touched her with the wand, and her rags instantly became the most magnificent apparel, ornamented with the most costly jewels in the whole world. To these she added a beautiful pair of glass slippers, and bade her set out for the palace.

The fairy, however, before she took leave of Cinderella, strictly charged her on no account whatever to stay at the ball after the clock had struck twelve, telling her that, should she stay but a single moment after that time, her coach would again become a pumpion, her horses mice, her footmen lizards, and her fine clothes be changed to filthy rags.

Cinderella did not fail to promise all her godmother desired of her; and almost wild with joy drove away to the palace.

As soon as she arrived, the king's son, who had been informed that a great princess, whom nobody knew, was come to the ball, presented himself at the door of her carriage, helped her out, and conducted her to the ball-room.

Cinderella no sooner appeared than every one was silent; both the dancing and the music stopped, and every body was employed in gazing at the uncommon beauty of this unknown stranger: nothing was heard but whispers of "How handsome she is!" The king himself, old as he was, could not keep his eyes from her, and continually repeated to the queen, that it was a long time since he had seen so lovely a creature. The ladies endeavoured to find out how her clothes were made, that they might get some of the same pattern for themselves by the next day, should they be lucky enough to meet with such handsome materials, and such good work-people to make them.

The king's son conducted her to the most honourable seat, and soon after took her out to dance with him. She both moved and danced so gracefully, that

every one admired her still more than before, and she was thought the most beautiful and accomplished lady ever beheld.

After some time a delicious collation was served up: but the young prince was so busily employed in looking at her, that he did not eat a morsel.

Cinderella seated herself near her sisters, paid them a thousand attentions, and offered them a part of the oranges and sweetmeats with which the prince had presented her; while they on their part were quite astonished at these civilities from a lady whom they did not know.

As they were conversing together, Cinderella heard the clock strike eleven and three quarters: she rose from her seat, curtsied to the company, and hastened away as fast as she could.

As soon as she got home she flew to her godmother, and, after thanking her a thousand times, told her she would give the world to be able to go again to the ball the next day, for the king's son had intreated her to be there.

While she was telling her godmother every thing that had happened to her at the ball, the two sisters knocked a loud rat-tat-tat at the door; which Cinderella opened.

"How late you have staid!" said she, yawning, rubbing her eyes, and stretching herself as if just awaked out of her sleep, though she had in truth felt no desire to sleep since they left her.

"If you had been at the ball," said one of the sisters, "let me tell you, you would not have been sleepy: there came thither the handsomest, yes, the very handsomest princess ever beheld! She paid us a thousand attentions, and made us take a part of the oranges and sweetmeats the prince had given her."

Cinderella could scarcely contain herself for joy: she asked her sisters the name of this princess: to which they replied, that nobody had been able to discover who she was; that the king's son was extremely grieved on that account, and had offered a large

reward to any person who could find out where she came from.

Cinderella smiled, and said: "How very beautiful she must be! How fortunate you are! Ah, could I but see her for a single moment! Dear miss Charlotte, lend me only the yellow gown you wear every day, and let me go to see her."

"Oh! yes, I warrant you; lend my clothes to a Cinderbreech! Do you really suppose me such a fool? No, no: pray, miss Forward, mind your proper business, and leave dress and balls to your betters."

Cinderella expected some such answer, and was by no means sorry, for she would have been sadly at a loss what to do if her sister had lent her the clothes that she asked of her.

The next day the two sisters again appeared at the ball, and so did Cinderella, but drest much more magnificently than the night before. The king's son was continually by her side, and said the most obliging things to her imaginable.

The charming young creature was far from being tired of all the agreeable things she met with: on the contrary, she was so delighted with them, that she entirely forgot the charge her godmother had given her.

Cinderella at last heard the striking of a clock, and counted one, two, three, on till she came to twelve, though she had thought that it could be but eleven at most. She got up and flew as nimbly as a deer out of the ball-room.

The prince tried to overtake her; but poor Cinderella's fright made her run the faster. However, in her great hurry, she dropped one of the glass slippers from her foot, which the prince stooped down and picked up, and took the greatest care of it possible.

Cinderella got home tired and out of breath, in her dirty old clothes, without either coach or footmen, and having nothing left of her magnificence but the fellow of the glass slipper which she had dropped.

In the mean while, the prince had inquired of all his guards at the palace gates, if they had not seen a mag-

nificent princess pass out, and which way she went? The guards replied, that no princess had passed the gates; and that they had not seen a creature but a little ragged girl, who looked more like a beggar than a princess.

When the two sisters returned from the ball, Cinderella asked them if they had been as much amused as the night before, and if the beautiful princess had been there? They told her that she had; but that as soon as the clock struck twelve she hurried away from the ball-room, and in the great haste she had made, had dropped one of her glass slippers, which was the prettiest shape that could be; that the king's son had picked it up, and had done nothing but look at it all the rest of the evening; and that every body believed he was violently in love with the handsome lady to whom it belonged.

This was very true; for a few days after, the prince had it proclaimed, by sound of trumpet, that he would marry the lady whose foot should exactly fit the slipper he had found.

Accordingly the prince's messengers took the slipper, and carried it first to all the princesses; then to the duchesses: in short, to all the ladies of the court, —but without success.

They then brought it to the two sisters, who each tried all she could to squeeze her foot into the slipper, but saw at last that this was quite impossible.

Cinderella, who was looking at them all the while, and knew her slipper, could not help smiling, and ventured to say, "Pray, Sir, let me try to get on the slipper."

Her sisters burst out a laughing in the rudest manner possible:—"Very likely, truly," said one of them, "that such a clumsy foot as your's should fit the slipper of a beautiful princess."

The gentleman, however, who brought the slipper, turned round, looked at Cinderella, and observing that she was very handsome, said, that as he was ordered by the prince to try it on every one till it fitted, it was but just that Cinderella should have her turn.

Saying this, he made her sit down; and putting the slipper to her foot, it instantly slipped in, and he saw that it fitted her like wax.

The two sisters were amazed to see that the slipper fitted Cinderella; but how much greater was their astonishment, when she drew out of her pocket the other slipper, and put it on!

Just at this moment the fairy entered the room, and touching Cinderella's clothes with her wand, made her all at once appear more magnificently dressed than they had seen her before.

The two sisters immediately perceived that she was the beautiful princess they had seen at the ball. They threw themselves at her feet, and asked her forgiveness for the ill treatment she had received from them. Cinderella helped them to rise, and, tenderly embracing them, said that she forgave them with all her heart, and begged them to bestow on her their affection.

Cinderella was then conducted, drest as she was, to the young prince, who finding her more beautiful than ever, instantly desired her to accept of his hand.

The marriage ceremony took place in a few days; and Cinderella, who was as amiable as she was handsome, gave her sisters magnificent apartments in the palace, and a short time after married them to two great lords of the court.

BLUE BEARD.

Many years ago a gentleman lived in Turkey who was extremely rich; he had elegant town and country houses; his dishes and plates were all of gold or silver; his rooms were hung with damask: his chairs and sofas were covered with the richest silks; and his carriages were all magnificently gilt with gold.

But, unfortunately, this gentleman had a blue beard, which made him so very frightful and ugly, that

none of the ladies in the neighbourhood would venture to go into his company.

It happened that a lady of quality, who lived near him, had two daughters, who were both extremely beautiful. Blue Beard asked her to bestow one of them upon him in marriage, leaving to herself the choice which of the two it should be.

They both, however, again and again refused to marry Blue Beard; but to be as civil as possible, they each pretended that they refused because she would not deprive her sister of the opportunity of marrying so much to her advantage. But the truth was, they could not bear the thoughts of having a husband with a blue beard: and, besides, they had heard of his having already been married to several wives, and nobody could tell what had afterwards become of them.

As Blue Beard wished very much to gain their favour, he invited the lady and her daughters, and some ladies who were on a visit at their house, to accompany him to one of his country seats, where they spent a whole week; during which nothing was thought of but parties for hunting and fishing, music, dancing, collations, and the most delightful entertainments. No one thought of going to bed, and the nights were passed in merriment of every kind.

In short, the time had passed so agreeably, that the youngest of the two sisters began to think that the beard, which had so much terrified her, was not so very blue; and that the gentleman to whom it belonged was vastly civil and pleasing.

Soon after they returned home she told her mother that she had no longer any objection to accept of Blue Beard for her husband; and, accordingly, in a short time they were married.

About a month after the marriage had taken place, Blue Beard told his wife that he should be obliged to leave her for a few weeks, as he had some business to do in the country. He desired her to be sure to procure herself every kind of amusement; to invite as many of her friends as she liked, and to treat them

Blue Beard.

Little Red Riding Hood.

with all sorts of delicacies, that the time might pass agreeably during his absence. "Here," said he, "are the keys of the two large wardrobes. This is the key of the great box that contains the best plate, which we use for company: this belongs to my strong box where I keep my money; and this to the casket in which are all my jewels. Here also is a master-key to all the apartments in my house:—but this small key belongs to the closet at the end of the long gallery on the ground floor. I give you leave," continued he, "to open or do what you like with all the rest excepting this closet: this, my dear, you must not enter, nor even put the key into the lock for all the world. Should you disobey me, expect the most dreadful of punishments."

She promised to obey his orders in the most faithful manner; and Blue Beard, after tenderly embracing her, stepped into his carriage and drove away.

The friends of the bride did not, on this occasion, wait to be invited, so impatient were they to see all the riches and magnificence she had gained by marriage; for they had been prevented from paying the wedding visit by their aversion to the blue beard of the bridegroom.

No sooner were they arrived than they impatiently ran from room to room, from cabinet to cabinet, and then from wardrobe to wardrobe, examining each with the utmost curiosity, and declaring that the last was still richer and more beautiful than what they had seen the moment before. At length they came to the drawing-rooms, where their admiration and astonishment were still increased by the costly splendour of the hangings, of the sofas, the chairs, carpets, tables, girandoles, and looking-glasses, the frames of which were silver gilt, most richly ornamented, and in which they saw themselves from head to foot.

In short, nothing could exceed the magnificence of what they saw; and the visitors did not cease to exto' and envy the good fortune of their friend, who all this time was far from being amused by the fine compli-

ments they paid her, so eagerly did she desire to see what was in the closet her husband had forbidden her to open. So great, indeed, was her curiosity, that, without recollecting how uncivil it would be to leave her guests, she descended a private staircase that led to it, and in such a hurry that she was two or three times in danger of breaking her neck.

When she reached the door of the closet she stopped for a few moments to think of the charge her husband had given her, and that he would not fail to keep his word in punishing her very severely, should she disobey him. But she was so very curious to know what was in the inside, that she determined to venture in spite of every thing.

She accordingly, with a trembling hand, put the key into the lock, and the door immediately opened. The window shutters being closed, she at first saw nothing; but in a short time she perceived that the floor was covered with clotted blood, on which the bodies of several dead women were lying. (These were all the wives whom Blue Beard had married, and murdered one after another.) She was ready to sink with fear, and the key of the closet-door, which she held in her hand, fell on the floor. When she had somewnat recovered from her fright, she took it up, locked the door, and hastened to her own room, that she might have a little time to get into a humour for amusing her visitors; but this she found impossible, so greatly was she terrified by what she had seen.

As she observed that the key of the closet had got stained with blood in falling on the floor, she wiped it two or three times over to clean it; still, however, the blood remained the same as before: she next washed it; but the blood did not stir at all: she then scoured it with brickdust, and afterwards with sand; but notwithstanding all she could do, the blood was still there; for the key was a fairy, who was Blue Beard's friend; so that as fast as she got it off on one side it appeared again on the other.

Early in the evening Blue Beard returned home,

saying, he had not proceeded far on his journey before he was met by a messenger, who was coming to tell him that his business was happily concluded without his being present: upon which his wife said every thing she could think of, to make him believe she was transported with joy at his unexpected return.

The next morning he asked her for the keys: she gave them to him; but as she could not help showing her fright, Blue Beard easily guessed what had happened. "How is it," said he, "that the key of the closet upon the ground-floor is not here?"—"Is it not?" said the wife: "then I must have left it on my dressing-table." "Be sure you give it me by and by," replied Blue Beard.

After going several times backwards and forwards, pretending to look for the key, she was at last obliged to give it to Blue Beard. He looked at it attentively, and then said: "How came this blood upon the key?"—"I am sure I do not know," replied the lady, turning at the same time as pale as death. "You do not know?" said Blue Beard sternly: "but I know well enough. You have been in the closet on the ground-floor. Vastly well, madam; since you are so mightily fond of this closet, you shall certainly take your place among the ladies you saw there."

His wife, almost dead with fear, fell upon her knees, asked his pardon a thousand times for her disobedience, and intreated him to forgive her; looking all the time so very sorrowful and lovely, that she would have melted any heart that was not harder than a rock.

But Blue Beard answered: "No, no, madam; you shall die this very minute!"

"Alas!" said the poor trembling creature, "if I must die, allow me, at least, a little time to say my prayers."

"I give you," replied the cruel Blue Beard, "half a quarter of an hour; not one moment longer."

When Blue Beard had left her to herself, she called her sister; and after telling her, as well as she could

for sobbing, that she had but half a quarter of an hour to live; "Prithee," said she, "sister Ann," (this was her sister's name) "run up to the top of the tower, and see if my brothers are not in sight; for they promised to come and visit me to-day; and if you see them, make a sign for them to gallop on as fast as possible."

Her sister instantly did as she was desired, and the terrified lady every minute called out to her: "Ann! sister Ann; do you see any one coming?" and her sister answered: "I see nothing but the sun, which makes a dust, and the grass, which looks green."

In the mean while, Blue Beard with a great scymitar in his hand, bawled as loud as he could to his wife: "Come down instantly, or I will fetch you."

"One moment longer, I beseech you," replied she; and again called softly to her sister: "Sister Ann, do you see any one coming?" To which she answered: "I see nothing but the sun, which makes a dust, and the grass which looks green."

Blue Beard now again bawled out, "Come down, I say, this very moment, or I shall come and fetch you."

"I am coming: indeed I will come in one minute;" sobbed his unhappy wife. Then she once more cried out: "Ann! sister Ann! do you see any one coming?"—"I see," said her sister, "a cloud of dust a little to the left."—"Do you think it is my brothers?" continued the wife. "Alas! no, dear sister," replied she, "it is only a flock of sheep."

"Will you come down or not, madam?" said Blue Beard, in the greatest rage imaginable.

"Only one single moment more," answered she. And then she called out for the last time: "Sister Ann! sister Ann! do you see no one coming?"

"I see," replied her sister, "two men on horseback coming to the house; but they are still at a great distance."

"God be praised!" cried she; "it is my brothers; give them a sign to make what haste they can."

At the same moment Blue Beard cried out so loud for her to come down, that his voice shook the whole house.

The poor lady, with her hair loose and her eyes swimming in tears, instantly came down, and fell on her knees to Blue Beard, and was going to beg him to spare her life; but he interrupted her saying. "All this is of no use at all; for you shall die:" then seizing her with one hand by the hair, and raising the scymitar he held in the other, was going with one blow to strike off her head.

The unfortunate creature turning towards him, desired to have a single moment allowed her to recollect herself.

"No, no," said Blue Beard, "I will give you no more time, I am determined. You have had too much already." And again raising his arm—Just at this instant a loud knocking was heard at the gates, which made Blue Beard wait for a moment to see who it was. The gates were opened, and two officers, dressed in their regimentals, entered, and, with their swords in their hands ran instantly to Blue Beard; who, seeing they were his wife's brothers, endeavoured to escape from their presence; but they pursued and seized him before he had got twenty steps; and plunging their swords into his body, he immediately fell down dead at their feet.

The poor wife, who was almost as dead as her husband, was unable at first to rise and embrace her brothers. She soon, however, recovered; and as Blue Beard had no heirs, she found herself the lawful possessor of his great riches.

She employed a portion of her vast fortune in giving a marriage dowry to her sister Ann, who soon after became the wife of a young gentleman by whom she had long been beloved. Another part she employed in buying captains' commissions for her two brothers; and the rest she presented to a most worthy gentleman, whom she married soon after, and whose kind treatment soon made her forget Blue Beard's cruelty.

LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD,

AND THE WICKED WOLF.

Once upon a time a country girl lived in a village, w was the sweetest little creature that ever was seen; he mother naturally loved her with excessive fondness, and her grandmother doted on her still more. The good woman had made for her a pretty red-coloured hood, which so much became the little girl, that every one called her *Little Red Riding Hood.* One day her mother having made some cheesecakes, said to her: "Go, my child, and see how your grandmother does, for I hear she is ill; carry her some of these cakes, and a little pot of butter."

Little Red Riding Hood immediately set out with a basket filled with the cakes and the pot of butter for her grandmother's house, which was in a village a little distant from her mother's.

As she was crossing a wood, which lay in her road, she met a Gaffer Wolf, who had a great mind to eat her up, but dared not indulge his desire, because of some wood-cutters who were at work near them in the forest. He ventured, however, to ask her whither she was going?

The little girl, not knowing how dangerous it was to talk to a wolf, replied: "I am going to see my grandmamma, and carry her these cakes and a pot of butter." Does she live far off?" said the wolf. "Oh, yes," answered Little Red Riding Hood, "beyond the mill you see yonder, at the first house in the village." "Well," said the wolf, "I will go and see her too; I will take this way and you take that, and see which will be there the soonest."

The wolf set out full speed, running as fast as he could, and taking the nearest way; while the little girl took the longe st, and amused herself as she went along with gathering nuts, running after butterflies, and making nosegays of such flowers as she found within her reach.

The wolf soon arrived at the dwelling of the grand-

mother: he knocked at the door:—"Who is there?" "It is your grandchild, Little Red Riding Hood," said the wolf, counterfeiting her voice: "I have brought you some cheesecakes and a little pot of butter, mamma has sent you."

The good old woman, who was still ill in bed, called out, "Pull the bobbin, and the latch will go up." The wolf pulled the bobbin, and the door opened. He sprang upon the poor old grandmother and ate her up in a moment, for it was three days since he had tasted any food.

The wolf then shut the door and laid himself down in the bed, and waited for little Red Riding Hood, who very soon after reached the door.—Tap, Tap!—"Who is there?" She was at first a little frightened at the hoarse voice of the wolf, but supposing that her grandmother had got a cold, she answered: "It is your grandchild, Little Red Riding Hood. Mamma has sent you some cheesecakes and a little pot of butter." The wolf called out softening his voice: "Pull the bobbin and the latch will go up." Little Red Riding Hood pulled the bobbin and the door opened.

When she came into the room, the wolf, hiding himself under the bed-clothes, said to her, trying all he could to speak in a feeble voice: "Put the basket, my child, on the stool, take off your clothes, and come into bed with me."

Little Red Riding Hood accordingly undressed herself and stepped into bed; where, wondering to see how her grandmother looked in her night-clothes, she said to her: "Grandmamma, what great arms you have got!"—"The better to hug thee, my child." "Grandmamma, what great ears you have got!"—"The better to hear thee, my child." Grandmamma, what great eyes you have got!"—"The better to see thee, my child." "Grandmamma, what great teeth you have got!"—"That is to eat thee up:'—and saying these words, the wicked wolf fell upon 'poor Little Red Riding Hood, and ate her up at a few mouthfuls.

THE WHITE CAT.

A KING had three sons, all remarkably handsome in their persons, and in their tempers generous and noble. Some wicked courtiers made the king believe that the princes were impatient to wear his crown, and that they were contriving a plot to deprive him of his sceptre and authority.

The king felt that he was growing old; but as he found himself as capable of governing as ever, he had no inclination to resign his power; and therefore, that he might pass the rest of his days peaceably, he determined to employ the princes in such a manner, as at once to give each of them the hope of succeeding to the crown, and fill up the time they might otherwise spend in so undutiful a manner.

He sent for them to his cabinet, and after conversing with them kindly, he added: "You must be sensible, my dear children, that my great age prevents me from attending so closely as I have hitherto done to state affairs. I fear this may be injurious to my subjects; I therefore desire to place my crown on the head of one of you; but it is no more than just, that in return for such a present you should procure me some amusement in my retirement, for I shall leave the capital for ever. I cannot help thinking, that a little dog, that should be handsome, faithful, and engaging, would be the very thing to make me happy, so that, without bestowing a preference on either of you, I declare that he who brings me the most perfect little dog shall be my successor. The princes were much surprised at the fancy of their father to have a little dog; yet they accepted the proposition with pleasure: and accordingly, after taking leave of the king, who presented them with abundance of money and jewels, and appointed that day twelvemonth for their return, they set off on their travels.

Before taking leave of each other, however, they

took some refreshment together, in an old palace about three miles out of town; where they mutually agreed to meet in the same place on that day twelvemonth, and go altogether with their presents to court They also agreed to change their names, that they might be unknown to every one.

Each took a different road; but we intend to relate the adventures of only the youngest, who was the handsomest, most amiable, and accomplished prince that could be imagined.

No day passed, as he travelled from town to town, that he did not buy all the handsome dogs that fell in his way; and as soon as he saw one that was handsomer than those he had before, he made a present to some one of the last; for twenty servants would have been scarce sufficient to take care of all the dogs he was continually buying, and the prince was quite alone.

At length, wandering he knew not whither, he found himself in a forest; night suddenly came on, and with it a violent storm of thunder, lightning, and rain: to add to his perplexity, he lost his path, and could find no way out of the forest. When he had groped about for a long time, he perceived a light, which made him suppose he was not far from some house: he accordingly pursued his way toward it, and in a short time found himself at the gates of the most magnificent palace ever beheld. The door that opened into it was made of gold, covered with sapphire stones, which cast so resplendent a brightness over every thing around, that scarcely could the strongest eye-sight bear to look at it: this was the light the prince had seen from the forest. The walls of the building were of transparent porcelain, variously coloured, and represented the history of all the fairies that had existed from the beginning of the world. The prince, coming back to the golden door, observed a deer's foot fastened to a chain of diamonds: he could not help wondering at the magnificence he beheld, and the security in which the inhabitants of the earth seemed to live; "for," says he to himself, "nothing can be easier than for thieves

to steal this chain, and as many of the sapphire stones as would make their fortune."

He pulled the chain, and heard a bell, the sound of which was so sweet, that he concluded it must be made either of silver or gold. In a few moments the door was opened; but he perceived nothing but twelve hands in the air, each holding a torch. The prince was so astonished that he durst not move a step; when he felt himself pushed gently on by some other hands from behind him. He walked on in great perplexity; and to be secure from danger, he put his hand upon his sword: he entered a vestibule inlaid with porphyry and lapis-stone, when the most melodious voice he had ever heard chanted the following words:

Welcome, prince, no danger fear,
Mirth and love attend you here;
You shall break the magic spell,
That on a beauteous maiden fell,
Welcome, prince, no danger fear,
Mirth and love attend you here.

The prince now advanced with confidence, wondering what these words could mean; the hands moved him forward toward a large door of coral, which opened of itself to give him admittance into a splendid apartment built of mother-of-pearl, through which he passed into others so richly adorned with paintings and jewels, and so resplendently lighted with thousands of lamps, girandoles, and lustres, that the prince imagined he must be in an enchanted palace.

When he had passed through sixty apartments, all equally splendid, he was stopped by the hands, and a large easy chair advanced of itself towards the chimney; the fire immediately lighted of itself; and the hands, which he observed were extremely white and delicate, took off his wet clothes, and supplied their place with the finest linen imaginable, and then added a commodious wrapping-gown, embroidered with the brightest gold, and all over enriched with pearls. The hands next brought him an elegant dressing table, and combed his hair so very gently that he scarcely

felt their touch. They held before him a beautiful bason, filled with perfumes, for him to wash his face and hands, and afterwards took off the wrapping-gown and dressed him in a suit of clothes of still greater splendour.

When his dress was complete, they conducted him to an apartment he had not yet seen, and which also was magnificently furnished. There was in it a table spread for a repast, and every thing upon it was of the purest gold, adorned with jewels. The prince observed there were two covers set; and was wondering who was to be his companion, when a great number of cats marched by two and two into the room, and placed themselves in an orchestra at one end of it; some had books, which contained the strangest-looking notes he had ever seen; others guitars; and one of them held a roll of paper with which he began to beat the time, while the rest played a concert of music.

As he was reflecting on the wonderful things he had seen in this palace, his attention was suddenly caught by a small figure, not a foot in height, which just then entered the room, and advanced towards him. It had on a long black veil, and was supported by two cats dressed in mourning, and with swords by their sides; they were followed by a numerous retinue of cats, some carrying cages full of rats, and others mouse-traps full of mice.

The prince was at a loss what to think. The little figure now approached, and throwing aside her veil, he beheld a most beautiful white cat: she seemed young and melancholy, and addressing herself to the prince, she said: "Young prince, you are welcome; your presence affords me the greatest pleasure." "Madam," replied the prince, "I would fain thank you for your generosity, nor can I help observing that you must be a most extraordinary creature, to possess, with your present form, the gift of speech, and the magnificent palace I have seen." "All this is very true," answered the beautiful cat: "but, prince, I am not fond of talking, and least of all do I like compliments; let us therefore sit down to supper."

The trunkless hands then placed the dishes on the table, and the prince and the white cat seated themselves. The first dish was a pie made of young pigeons, and the next was a fricasee of the fattest mice imaginable: the view of the one made the prince almost afraid to taste the other; till the white cat, who guessed his thoughts, assured him that there were certain dishes at table in which there was not a single morsel of either rat or mouse, and that these had been dressed on purpose for him: accordingly he ate heartily of such as she recommended.

When supper was over, the prince perceived that the white cat had a portrait set in gold hanging to one of her feet. He begged her permission to look at it; when what was his astonishment to see the portrait of a handsome young man, that exactly resembled himself! He said to himself, there was something very extraordinary in all this; yet as the white cat sighed, and looked very sorrowful, he did not venture to ask any questions. He conversed with her on different subjects; and found her extremely well versed in every thing that was passing in the world.

When night was far advanced, the white cat wished him a good night, and he was conducted by the hands to his bed-chamber, which was different still from any thing he had seen in the palace, being hung with the wings of butterflies, mixed with the most curious feathers. His bed was of gauze, festooned with bunches of the gayest ribbands, and the looking-glasses reached from the floor to the ceiling.

The prince was undressed and put into bed by the hands, without speaking a word: they then left him to repose. He however slept but little, and in the morning was awakened by a confused noise. The hands took him out of bed, and put on him a handsome hunting-jacket. He looked into the court-yard, and perceived more than five hundred cats, all busily employed in preparing for the field, for this was a day of festival. Presently the white cat came to his apartment; and having politely inquired after his health,

and how he had passed the night, she invited him to partake of their amusement. The prince willingly accepted, and mounted a wooden horse richly caparisoned, which had been prepared for him, and which he was assured would gallop to admiration. The beautiful white cat at the same time mounted a monkey, dressed in a dragoon's bonnet, which made her look so fierce that all the rats and mice ran away in the utmost terror.

Every thing being ready, the horns sounded, and away they went: no hunting was ever more agreeable; the cats ran faster than the hares and rabbits; and when they caught any they were hunted in the presence of the white cat, and a thousand cunning tricks were played. Nor were the birds in safety; for the monkey made nothing of climbing up the trees, with the white cat at his back, to the nests of the young eagles.

When the hunting was over, the whole retinue returned to the palace; when the white cat immediately exchanged her dragoon's cap for her veil, and sat down to supper with the prince, who, being extremely hungry, ate heartily, and afterwards partook with her of the most delicious liquors, which being often repeated, made him forget that he was to procure a little dog for the old king. He thought no longer of any thing but of pleasing the sweet little creature who received him so courteously, and accordingly every day was spent in new amusements.

The prince had almost forgot his country and relations, and sometimes even regretted that he was not a cat, so great was his affection for his mewing companions. "Alas!" said he to the white cat, "how will it afflict me to leave you whom I love so much! Either make yourself a lady, or make me a cat." She smiled at the prince's wish; but made him scarcely any reply.

At length the twelvemonth was nearly expired; the white cat, who knew the very day when the prince was to reach his father's palace, reminded him that he

had but three days longer to look for a perfect little dog. The prince, astonished at his own forgetfulness, began to afflict himself; when the cat told him not to be so sorrowful, since she would not only provide him with a little dog, but also with a wooden horse which should convey him safely in less than twelve hours. "Look here," said she, showing him an acorn, "this contains what you desire." The prince put the acorn to his ear, and heard the barking of a little dog. Transported with joy, he thanked the cat a thousand times, and the next day bidding her tenderly adieu, he set out on his return.

The prince arrived first at the place of rendezvous, and was soon joined by his brothers; they mutually embraced, and began to give an account of their success; when the youngest shewed them only a little mongrel cur, telling them, he thought it could not fail to please the king from its extraordinary beauty. The brothers stepped upon each other's toes under the table; as much as to say, We have not much to fear from this sorry-looking animal.

The next day they went together to the palace. The dogs of the two elder princes were laying on cushions, and so curiously wrapped round with embroidered quilts, that scarcely would one venture to touch them. The youngest produced his cur dirty all over, and every one wondered how the prince could hope to receive a crown for such a present. The king examined the two little dogs of the elder princes, and declared he thought them so equally beautiful, that he knew not to which, with justice, he could give the preference. They accordingly began to dispute; when the youngest prince, taking the acorn from his pocket, soon ended their contention; for a little dog appeared which could with ease go through the smallest ring, and was besides a miracle of beauty.

The king could not possibly hesitate in declaring his satisfaction; yet as he was not more inclined than the year before to part with his crown, he could think of nothing more to his purpose than telling his sons

that he was extremely obliged to them for the pains they had taken; and that, since they had succeeded so well, he could not but wish they would make a second attempt: he therefore begged they would take another year for procuring him a piece of cambric, so fine as to be drawn through the eye of a small needle.

The three princes thought this very hard; yet they set out in obedience to the king's command. The two eldest took different roads, and the youngest remounted his wooden horse, and in a short time arrived at the palace of his beloved white cat, who received him with the greatest joy, while the trunkless hands helped him, as before, to dismount, and provided him with immediate refreshment; after which the prince gave the white cat an account of the admiration which had been bestowed on the beautiful little dog, and informed her of his father's further injunction.

"Make yourself perfectly easy, dear prince," said she: "I have in my palace some cats that are particularly expert in making such cambric as the king requires; so you have nothing to do but to give me the pleasure of your company while it is making; and I will take care to procure you all the amusement possible." She accordingly ordered the most curious fireworks to be immediately played off in sight of the window of the apartment in which they were sitting; and nothing but festivity and rejoicing was heard throughout the palace for the prince's return.

As the white cat continually gave proofs of an excellent understanding, the prince was by no means tired of her company; she talked with him of state affairs, of theatres, of fashions; in short, she was at a loss on no subject whatever; so that when the prince was alone he had plenty of amusement in thinking how it could possibly be, that a small white cat could be endowed with all the powers of human creatures.

The twelvemonth in this manner again passed insensibly away; but the cat took care to remind the prince of his duty in proper time. "For once, my prince," said she, "I will have the pleasure of equip-

ping you as suits your high rank;" when, looking into the court-yard, he saw a superb car, ornamented all over with gold, silver, pearl, and diamonds, drawn by twelve horses as white as snow, and harnessed in the most sumptuous trappings; and behind the car a thousand guards, richly apparelled, were in waiting to attend the prince's person.

She then presented him with a nut: "You will find in it," said she, "the piece of cambric I promised you: do not break the shell till you are in the presence of the king your father:" then, to prevent the acknowledgements he was about to offer, she hastily bade him adieu.

Nothing could exceed the speed with which the snow-white horses conveyed this fortunate prince to his father's palace, where his brothers had just arrived before him. They embraced each other, and demanded an immediate audience of the king, who received them with the greatest kindness. The princes hastened to lay at the feet of his majesty the curious present he had required them to procure. The eldest unwrapped a piece of cambric that was indeed extemely fine, so that his friends had no doubt of its passing through the eye of the needle, which was now delivered to the king, having been kept locked up in the custody of his majesty's treasurer all the time. Not one of them but supposed he would certainly obtain the crown. But when the king tried to draw it through the eye of the needle, it would not pass, though it failed by the smallest difference imaginable. Then came the second prince, who made as sure of obtaining the crown as his brother had done; but, alas! with no better success: for though, to all appearance, his piece of cambric was exquisitely fine, yet it could not be drawn through the eye of the needle. It was now the youngest prince's turn, who accordingly advanced, and opening a magnificent little box, inlaid with jewels, he took out a walnut and cracked the shell, imagining he should immediately perceive his piece of cambric; but what was his astonishment to

see nothing but a filbert! He did not, however, lose his hopes; he cracked the filbert, and it presented him with a cherry-stone. The lords of the court, who had assembled to witness this very extraordinary trial, could not, any more than the princes his brothers, refrain from laughing, to think he should be so silly as to claim with them the crown, on no better pretensions. The prince, however, cracked the cherry-stone, which was filled with a kernel: he divided it, and found in the middle a grain of wheat, and in that a grain of millet seed. He was now absolutely confounded, and could not help muttering between his teeth, "Oh! white cat, white cat, thou hast deceived me!" At this instant he felt his hand severely scratched by the claw of a cat: upon which he again took courage, and, opening the grain of millet seed, to the astonishment of all present, he drew from it a piece of cambric four hundred yards in length, and fine enough to be drawn, with perfect ease, through the eye of the needle.

When the king found he had no pretext left for refusing the crown to his youngest son, he sighed deeply, and it was plain to be seen that he was sorry for the prince's success. "My sons," said he, "it is so gratifying to the heart of a father to receive proofs of his children's love and obedience, that I cannot refuse myself the satisfaction of requiring of you one thing more. You must undertake another expedition; and whichever, by the end of a year, shall bring me the most beautiful lady, shall marry her, and obtain my crown.

The two eldest princes took care enough not to murmur, for they had now another chance for success, and the youngest was too dutiful to complain of the great injustice he had suffered: so they again took leave of the king, and of each other, and set out without delay, and in less than twelve hours our young prince again arrived in his splendid car at the palace of his dear white cat, who received him as before. He gave her an account of all that had passed.

and the new request of the king his father. "Never mind it, my prince," said she, "I engage to provide you with what you want; and, in the mean time, let us be as merry as we can; for it is only when I have the pleasure of your company that I am the least inclined to entertainments or rejoicings of any kind." Accordingly every thing went on as before, till the end of another year; only that the prince felt great uneasiness at being unable to discover by what means it could be that his companion had at once the sense of a creature like himself, and the form of a cat.

At length only one day remained of the year, when the white cat thus addressed him: "To-morrow, my prince, you must present yourself at the palace of your father, and give him a proof of your obedience. It depends only on yourself to conduct thither the most beautiful princess ever yet beheld: for the time is come when the enchantment by which I am bound may be ended. You must cut off my head and tail," continued she, "and throw them into the fire." "I!" answered the prince hastily, "I cut off your head and tail! You surely mean to try my affection, which, believe me, beautiful cat, is truly your's." "You mistake me, generous prince," said she, "I do not doubt your regard; but if you wish to see me in any other form than that of a cat, you must consent to do as I desire: when you will have done me a service I shall never be able sufficiently to repay you."

The prince's eyes filled with tears as he spoke, yet he considered himself obliged to undertake the dreadful task; and the cat continuing to press him with the greatest eagerness, with a trembling hand he drew his sword, cut off her head and tail, and threw them into the fire. No sooner was this done, than the most beautiful lady his eyes had ever seen stood before him: and before he had sufficiently recovered from his surprise to speak to her, a long train of attendants, who, at the same moment as their mistress, were changed to their natural shapes, came to offer their congratulations to the queen, and inquire her commands.

She received them with great kindness; and then ordering them to withdraw, she thus addressed the astonished prince:—

"Do not imagine, dear prince, that I have been always a cat, or that I am of obscure birth. My father was the monarch of six kingdoms; he tenderly loved my mother, leaving her always at liberty to follow her own inclinations: Her prevailing passion was to travel; and, a short time before my birth, having heard of some faries, who were in possession of the largest gardens filled with the most delicious fruits imaginable, she had so strong a desire to eat some of them, that she set out for the country in which they lived. She arrived at their abode, which she found to be a magnificent palace, on all sides glittering with gold and precious stones. She knocked for a long time at the gates; but no one came, nor could she perceive the least sign that it had any inhabitant. This difficulty, however, did but increase the violence of my mother's longing; for she saw the tops of the trees above the garden walls loaded with the most luscious fruits. The queen, in despair, ordered her attendants to place tents close to the door of the palace, as she was determined to watch for an opportunity of speaking to the persons who should go in and out, and remained in them for six weeks with her whole court. But in all this time not a single creature had passed the door of the palace; so that the queen fell sick of vexation and her life was despaired of.

"One night, as she lay half asleep, she turned herself about, and opening her eyes perceived a little old woman, extremely ugly and deformed, seated in the easy chair by her bed-side. 'I, and my sister faries,' said she, 'take it extremely ill that your majesty should so obstinately persist in getting some of our fruit; but, since so precious a life is at stake, we consent to give you as much as you can carry away with you, provided you will give us in return what we shall ask.' 'Ah! kind fairy,' cried the queen, 'I will give you any thing I possess, even my very kingdoms, on condition

that I eat of your fruit.' The old fairy then informed the queen that what they required was, that she would give them the child she would shortly have, as soon as she should be born, adding, that every possible care should be taken of her, and that she should become the most accomplished princess. The queen replied, that however cruel the condition, she must accept it, since nothing but the fruit could save her life.

"The fairy immediately touched her with a small gold wand, telling her she would now be able to see the door open, when she should knock, and to hear the voice that answered her: 'for,' added the fairy, 'our palace is well filled with inhabitants, and they pass in and out continually, though your majesty had not the gift of seeing them.'

"In short, my prince," continued the cat, "my mother instantly got out of bed, was dressed by her attendants, entered the palace and satisfied her longing. When the queen had eaten her fill, she ordered four thousand mules to be procured, and loaded with the fruit, which had the virtue of continuing all the year round in a state of perfection. Thus provided, she returned to the king my father, who with the whole court received her with rejoicings, as it was before imagined she would die of disappointment. All this time the queen said nothing to my father of the promise she had made,—to give her daughter to the fairies:—so that when the time was come that she expected my birth, she grew extremely melancholy; till at length, being pressed by the king, she declared to him the truth.

"Nothing could exceed his affliction, when he heard that his only child, when born, was to be given to the fairies: he bore it, however, as well as he could, for fear of adding to my mother's grief; and also believing he should find some means of keeping me in a place of safety, which the fairies would not be able to approach. As soon, therefore, as I was born, he had me conveyed to a tower in the palace, to which there were twenty flights of stairs, and a door

to each, of which my father kept the key; so that no one came near me without his permission.

"When the fairies heard of what had been done, they sent first to demand me; and on my father's refusal, to be revenged, they let loose a monstrous dragon, who devoured men, women, and children, and the breath of whose nostrils destroyed every thing it came near, so that the trees and plants began to die in great abundance.

"The grief of the king at seeing this, could scarcely be equalled; and finding that his whole kingdom would in a short time be reduced to famine, he determined to give me into their hands. I was accordingly laid in a cradle of mother-of-pearl, magnificently ornamented with gold and jewels, and carried to their palace; and the dragon immediately disappeared.

"The fairies placed me in a tower of their palace, magnificently furnished, but to which there was no door; so that whoever approached me was obliged to come by the windows, which were a prodigious height from the ground: from these I had the liberty of getting out into a delightful garden, in which were baths, and every sort of cooling fruit. In this place was I educated by the fairies, who behaved to me with the greatest kindness: my clothes were extremely splendid, and I was instructed in every kind of accomplishment: in short, my prince, if I had never seen any one but themselves, I should have remained perfectly happy.

"When they visited me, it was always seated on the back of the dragon I have already mentioned: they never spoke of my parents; and as they called me their child, I believed myself really so: my only companions in the tower were a parrot and a little dog, and both were endowed with the gift of speech.

"One of the windows of my tower overlooked a long avenue shaded with trees, so that I had never seen in it a human creature. One day, however, as I was talking at this window with my parrot, I perceived a young gentleman who was listening to

our conversation. As I had never seen a man, but in pictures, I was not sorry for the opportunity of gratifying my curiosity. I thought him a very pleasing object, and he at length bowed in the most respectful manner, without daring to speak, for he knew that I was in the palace of the fairies. When it began to grow dark he went away, but I vainly endeavoured to see which road he took.

"The next morning, as soon as it was light, I again placed myself at the window, and had the pleasure of seeing that the gentleman had returned to the same place. He now spoke to me through a speaking-trumpet, and informed me he thought me a most charming lady, and that he should be very unhappy if he did not pass his life in my company. I dared not reply; but I threw him some flowers, which he seemed to consider as a mark of my being pleased with what he said. He next begged my permission to come every day at the same hour to speak with me, desiring me, if I consented, to throw down something by way of token. I accordingly threw down a ring, at the same time making a sign for him to withdraw hastily, as I heard the approach of the fairy Violent on her dragon, who brought me my breakfast.

"The first words she uttered, after getting in at the window, were: 'I smell the voice of a man.' You may imagine my terror. Finding no one, she appeared satisfied, and said no more. At length she left me, leaving me a new distaff, and recommending me to employ myself more in spinning: 'for,' said she, 'you have done scarcely any thing these two days.' No sooner was she gone, than I flung away the distaff, and again placed myself at the window; and having a spying-glass in my tower, I discovered my new acquaintance at some distance, richly dressed, and surrounded by a number of attendants. I concluded from this that he was the son of some king in the neighbourhood; and fearing he might think of paying me another visit that day, I

I sent my parrot to him with a message, requesting him to avoid the danger I feared of his meeting the dragon.

"The prince, for such he was, sent back my parrot, having first delivered to her a ring and a picture, of which he begged my acceptance. The picture was of himself, and my joy was inexpressible at thus being able to see the features of the prince so near.

"Just at this time the fairies took it into their heads to think of choosing me a husband from their own race, and accordingly appointed a day for his paying me a visit, desiring me to look as engagingly as I could. When I was alone with my parrot, she began to tell me how much she should pity me if the fairies obliged me to marry Migonnet, the prince they had thought of: 'for,' said she, 'he is a dwarf not two feet high; he has a hunch upon his back, his head is larger than his whole body, his nose is so long that twenty birds may roost upon it; he has the feet of an eagle, and walks on stilts.' I was ready to die with horror when I thought of this creature as my husband; and from that moment I resolved to find some means of escaping from my tower with the engaging prince I had seen. I was not long in devising a means for the execution of my project; I begged the fairies to bring me a netting-needle, a mesh, and some cord, saying, I wished to make some nets to amuse myself with catching birds at my windows. This they readily complied with, and in a short time I completed a ladder long enough to reach the ground.

"I now sent my parrot to the prince, to beg he would come to the usual place, as I wished to speak with him. He did not fail; and, finding the ladder, mounted it, and precipitately entered my tower. I was at first somewhat alarmed; but the charms of his conversation had restored me to perfect tranquillity, when all at once the window opened, and the fairy Violent, seated on the dragon's back, rushed

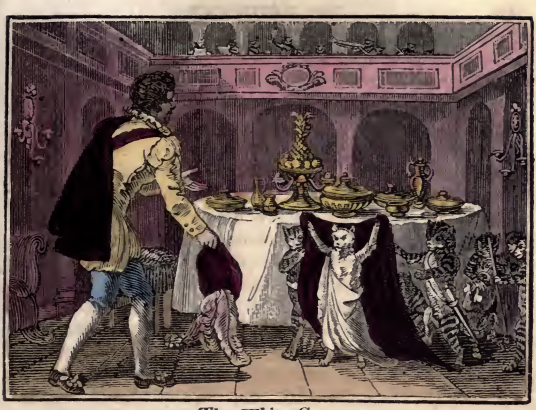
into the tower, followed by the hideous Migonnet in a chariot of fire, and a troop ot guards, each upon the back of an ostrich.

"My beloved prince thought of nothing but how to defend me from their fury; for I had had time to relate to him my story, previous to this cruel interruption; but their numbers overpowered him, and the fairy Violent had the barbarity to command the dragon to devour my prince before my eyes. In my despair I would have thrown myself into the mouth of the horrible monster; but this they took care to prevent, saying, my life should be preserved for greater punishment. The fairy then touched me with a wand, and I instantly became a white cat. She next conducted me to this palace, which belonged to my father, and gave me a train of cats for my attendants, together with the twelve hands which waited on you, my prince. She then informed me of my birth, and the death of both my parents, and pronounced upon me what she imagined would be the greatest of maledictions: that I should not be restored to my natural figure, till a young prince, the perfect resemblance of him I had lost, should cut off my head and tail.

"You, my prince, are that perfect resemblance; and, accordingly, you have ended the enchantment.

"I need not add, that I already love you more than my life; let us therefore hasten to the palace of the king your father, and obtain his approbation to our marriage."

The prince and princess accordingly set out side by side in a car of still greater splendour than before, and reached the palace just as the two brothers had arrived with two beautiful princesses. The king, hearing that each of his sons had succeeded in finding what he had required, again began to think of some new expedient to delay the time of resigning his crown; but when the whole court were with the king assembled to pass judgment, the princess who accompanied the youngest, perceiving his thoughts by his coun-



The White Cat.

The Sleeping Beauty in the Wood.

tenance, stepped majestically forward, and thus addressed him :

" What pity that your majesty, who is so capable of governing, should think of resigning the crown! I am fortunate enough to have six kingdoms in my possession; permit me to bestow one on each of the elder princes, and to enjoy the remaining four in the society of the youngest. And may it please your majesty to keep your own kingdom, and to make no decision concerning the beauty of the three princesses, who, without such a proof of your majesty's preference, will no doubt live happily together!"

The air resounded with the applauses of the assembly: the young prince and princess embraced the king, and next their brothers and sisters: the three weddings immediately took place, and the kingdoms were divided as the princess had proposed, in each of which nothing for a long time prevailed but rejoicings.

THE SLEEPING BEAUTY IN THE WOOD.

Once upon a time there lived a king and queen who had no children; which made them very unhappy indeed. Hoping, by some means or other, to have an heir, they went to consult all the fairies they could hear of: vows, pilgrimages, every thing was tried but without success.

At length, however, news was proclaimed that the queen was going to have a child, and soon after she was brought to bed of a princess. The christening was the most sumptuous imaginable; and seven fairies, being all that could be found in the country, were appointed to be her godmothers, so that each of them might bestow upon her a gift, as was the custom in those days. By these means the princess had every possible perfection.

When the ceremonies of the baptism were over, all the company returned to the king's palace, where the most costly entertainment was prepared for the fairies; before each of them was set a magnificent cover, with a case of massy gold, which contained a knife, a fork, and a spoon, set with diamonds and rubies, and all of the most curious workmanship.

As the company were going to place themselves at table, an old fairy, who for more than fifty years had not left the tower she inhabited, and was believed to be either dead or enchanted, and on that account had not been invited to the christening, entered the room. The king immediately ordered a seat to be brought for her, and also a cover; but it could not be of massy gold, because only seven had been made, being one each for the seven fairies.

The old fairy, seeing that her cover was not more than half so magnificent as those of her sister-fairies, thought that the king had slighted her, and muttered between her teeth that she would be revenged.

One of the young fairies who sat next her, and caught the sounds that fell from her, fearing that she might bestow on the infant princess some unlucky gift, on leaving the table, went and hid herself behind the window curtains, so that it might fall to her to speak the last, and thus repair as much as possible the injury intended by the old fairy.

In the mean time, the fairies began to make their donations to the young princess. The first gave her for a gift, that she should be the most beautiful lady in all the world: the next, that she should have the wit of an angel: the third, that she should do every thing she undertook with the most enchanting grace: the fourth that she should dance so as to delight every beholder: the fifth, that she should sing like a nightingale: the sixth, that she should play perfectly well on all sorts of musical instruments.

It being the old fairy's turn to speak next, she came forward, her head shaking all the time, more with spite than age, and said: "The gift I bestow on the

princess shall be, that she shall pierce her hand with a spindle, and die of the wound."

This terrible gift made the whole assembly tremble, and every one but the old fairy fell to crying violently. Just at this instant the young fairy came out from behind the window curtains, and in a distinct voice pronounced the following words: "Do not, O king and queen, thus deeply afflict yourselves: the princess shall not die of the wound; for, though I have not the power wholly to prevent what an older fairy than I has decreed, I can, however, make her gift prove less injurious to the princess: accordingly your daughter shall pierce her hand with a spindle; but instead of dying of the wound, she shall only fall into a deep sleep, which shall continue for one hundred years, at the end of which time she shall be awakened by a young prince."

The king, thinking it might still be possible to avoid so terrible a misfortune, had it every where proclaimed that no person, of whatever condition, on pain of death, should spin with a spindle, or even keep one in their house.

About sixteen years after this, the king and queen being at one of their palaces in the country, it happened that the young princess was one day running from room to room to amuse herself; she at length found her way to a small apartment at the top of a tower, in which an old woman sat spinning with a spindle (for the poor old creature had never heard of the proclamation that had been made against spindles.)

"What are you doing, Goody?" said the princess. "I am a spinning, my pretty lady," replied the old woman, who did not know to whom she was speaking. "Ah! how I should like to do such pretty work!" continued the princess: "pray let me try." She had no sooner taken the spindle in her hand, than, being very sprightly and thoughtless (and indeed it was thus decreed by the fairy), she ran the point of it into her hand, and instantly fell down in a sound sleep. The old woman, who was greatly frightened, and at

a loss what step to take, called out for help. A number of persons immediately ran to her assistance; they threw cold water on the princess's face, cut the lace of her stays, rubbed her hands and temples with Hungary water—but all to no purpose, for she remained fast asleep.

In the mean while the king had heard the news, and hastened to the old woman's apartment; but, recollecting the gift that had been made her, he very properly resolved to bear the misfortune with patience, since he could not overcome the will of a fairy. Accordingly, the king ordered her to be carried to the most sumptuous apartment in the palace, and laid on a bed made of the richest velvet, and ornamented with gold and silver.

The princess, in this situation, appeared so beautiful, that she might have been taken for an angel, for the deep sleep into which she had fallen did not the least injury to her fine complexion: her cheeks still resembled the most delicate roses, and her lips the finest coral ever seen; the only difference being, that her eyes, which sparkled like diamonds, were now covered by the lids. She was heard to breathe softly, so that those who saw her were quite sure that she was not dead.

The king commanded that no one should attempt to disturb her repose, till the proper time for awakening her should come.

The kind fairy who had saved her life by thus condemning her to sleep a hundred years, was in the kingdom of Matakin, at the distance of twelve thousand leagues, when the accident happened to the princess: the news of it, however, was carried to her in a short time, by a dwarf who was her friend, and who used his seven-league boots for the purpose; that is, boots with which he could stride over seven leagues of ground at once.

The fairy immediately set off, and in less than an hour descended, in a fiery chariot, drawn by dragons, in the outer yard of the palace. The king hastened

to welcome and assist her in getting out of the chariot, and then related what had happened.

The fairy approved of all the king had done; but having a great deal of foresight, she remarked to him that the princess, on awaking, would be extremely terrified to find herself alone in so old and gloomy a palace. After thinking a few minutes what could possibly be done to remedy this inconvenience, she soon hit upon an expedient: she touched all the persons in the palace, excepting only the king and queen, with her wand; maids of honour, governesses, waiting-women, gentlemen-ushers, grooms of the bed-chamber, lords in waiting, stewards, cooks, scullions, guards, pages, and footmen, were all thrown into a sleep as sound as that of the princess.

She touched also with her wand all the horses in the stables, all the grooms, all the dogs in the stable-yard, and even little Bichon, the princess's favourite lapdog, who lay on the bed by her side: all fell fast asleep, till the time should arrive for the princess to awake, when they would be ready at a moment's warning to wait upon her. Even the very spits, and the partridges and pheasants that were roasting on them, together with the fire, were all laid asleep; and all this was concluded in a moment—for fairies are never long in performing their feats.

The king and queen, after embracing their daughter tenderly, without awaking her, left the palace; and made a proclamation, that no one, on pain of death, should dare approach her. The king might, however, have saved himself this trouble; for in a quarter of an hour there sprang up round the palace a vast number of trees of all sorts and sizes, bushes and brambles, all twining one in the other, that neither man nor beast could have made a passage through them. Indeed, nothing but the turrets of the palace were to be seen above the thick wood formed by the trees, and even these only at a great distance. The fairy in this, no doubt, employed the whole skill of her art, to, preserve the princess during her long sleep from the observation of the curious.

At the end of the hundred years, the son of a reigning king, who was of a different family from that of the sleeping princess, happened to pass near the palace as he was hunting, and asked his attendants to whom the turrets and the wood belonged. They each answered him agreeably to what he had heard of the place. Some of them said it was an old castle that was haunted by ghosts; others, that all the witches in the country assembled in it to hold their nightly meetings; but the most common opinion was, that it was inhabited by an ogre, who retired within its walls to devour all the children he ran away with, where he could eat them without fear of pursuit, since no one but himself could get through the wood.

The prince was at a loss what to believe, when an old peasant approached him and said—"May it please your royal highness, I was told more than fifty years ago by my father, who heard it from my grandfather, that there was concealed in this palace a princess of most exquisite beauty, who was condemned by a fairy to sleep a hundred years, and was then to be awakened by the son of a king, who was to be her husband."

The young prince listened eagerly to this discourse, and instantly concluded he was himself the prince intended by the fairy to awake her; and, hurried on by gallantry and love, he resolved on entering the palace.

Scarcely had he reached the wood before the trees, the bushes, and the brambles, separated of themselves to let him pass. He proceeded towards the palace, which he perceived at the end of a long avenue, and soon entered it. But what did not a little surprise him was, that none of his attendants had been able to follow him; for the trees, bushes, and brambles again entwined with each other as soon as he had passed through them. Notwithstanding this, he pursued his way to the palace; for a young prince in love is always valiant.

He entered a spacious court, where every thing he saw might have terrified the stoutest heart in the world. All the men and animals that had been laid asleep

were stretched on the ground, and appeared as if they were dead, and there was a dreadful silence through all the place. After a little time, however, he perceived, by the red faces of the men-servants, that they were only asleep; and, as there was still some beer left in the bottom of their cups, he saw plainly that they had fallen asleep while drinking.

The prince next went through a large court paved with marble, which led to a staircase; this he ascended, and came to the chamber of the guards, who were all standing in ranks with their muskets on their shoulders, and snoring with all their might. He continued his way through several other apartments, which were filled with ladies and gentlemen, some sitting, some standing; but all fast asleep.

At length he came to an apartment gilded all over with gold, in which was a magnificent bed, with the curtains drawn back, and a young lady about sixteen years of age, more beautiful than any thing he had ever beheld, lying upon it: indeed, she perfectly resembled an angel.

The prince went near the bed, but trembled at every step; and after looking for a few minutes with the greatest delight upon her, he could not help falling upon his knees to her, as if she had been awake.

The enchantment of the fairy being thus ended, the princess opened her eyes, and casting them on the prince with a look of more tenderness than is common at first sight: "Is it you, my prince?" said she: "How long you have made me wait for you!"

The prince, delighted at these words, and still more at the sweet tone of voice in which she pronounced them, was at a loss how to express his gratitude and joy. He assured her that he loved her better than he did himself; and this, with many other expressions of the same kind, he repeated a thousand and a thousand times.

The princess on her part was by no means backward; for though history mentions no such thing, yet we may very well suppose that her good friend the fairy

caused her during her long sleep to have the most agreeable dreams. In short they talked for more than four hours together, without saying half of what they wished.

"What happiness, beautiful princess!" said the prince, looking at her with the greatest tenderness imaginable, "what happiness, to be able to do you such a service, to see you smile so sweetly, and to be thus rewarded by your love! to think that the most powerful princes upon the earth could not have performed what I have done, in breaking the cruel enchantment that condemned you to sleep so long?"

"Ah! dear prince" replied she, "I feel that we were made for each other. It was you I saw, it was you who were my companion, and during my long sleep I thought of no one but you. I knew very well that he who should end my enchantment would be the handsomest of men, that he would love me more than himself, and the moment I cast my eyes upon you I knew you perfectly."

In the mean while, all the attendants who had been asleep the same time as the princess, were awaked, and had set about their business; but as they were not, like the princess, in love, they found themselves extremely hungry, for it was very long since they had eaten any thing. The first maid of honour, who was as sharp set as the rest, even ventured to tell the princess, without any ceremony, that the dinner was served.

The prince then assisted the princess to rise. She was ready drest, and in the most magnificent clothes imaginable; but he took great care not to tell her that they were like those of his great grandmother, and that she had a ruff round her neck, which, however, did not in the least diminish her beauty.

He took her hand, and conducted her to the room in which the dinner was served: as soon as they had seated themselves at table, the musicians, who were in readiness with their instruments, began to play some airs, which, though they were out of fashion, were nevertheless extremely agreeable.

The prince and princess passed the evening de-

lighted with each other's company, and as a long courtship was not necessary, they agreed to be married that very night. The lord almoner was consulted, and he consented to perform the ceremony provided the chapel could be got ready, (for it was very dusty and full of cobwebs.) There were plenty of hands willing to be employed on such an occasion, so that the chapel was soon swept, the crimson velvet hangings neatly brushed, and the books nicely dusted.

When all was ready, my lord almoner led the way in his canonical robes, with his mitre on his head, and preceded by half a dozen servants in the richest liveries that can be imagined, bearing each a lighted torch; then followed six beautiful boys in white surplices, with censers in their hands, perfuming the air with the most aromatic sweets; after them followed the prince and princess, hand in hand; they walked in silence, but the delight which sparkled in their eyes shewed how well pleased they were: next followed the maids of honour, the gentlemen and ladies of the bedchamber, the lords in waiting, and in short the whole court. They were all magnificently dressed, but, as you may suppose, their clothes were rather old fashioned.

So soon as the ceremony was performed, they returned to a magnificent banquet, where the company enjoyed themselves to a very late hour.

The next morning, the prince reflected that he had been guilty of a very great fault in marrying without having previously asked the consent of his parents; he was in great perplexity how he should get over this reprehensible act of disobedience, and at last concluded that he would say nothing about it, until a favourable opportunity offered; not but what he could readily have obtained the pardon of the king his father, who was a very good and benevolent man; but the queen, his mother, was descended from the race of cannibal giants called Ogres; and though some generations had passed, she still retained their horrid inclinations, and had all the difficulty in the world, when she saw little children pass, to refrain from falling on them and eating them

up; indeed, it was whispered about the court, that some little excursions that she occasionally made into the country, was only to indulge herself in this barbarous propensity. The king would never have married her, but her vast riches and possessions (for she was an heiress,) induced him.

The prince therefore resolved not to say one word at home of his marriage, and took the opportunity, under pretence of hunting, to visit his beautiful princess three or four times a week. He lived in this way some years, and had in that time two children; the eldest of which, who was a daughter, was named MORNING, and the youngest, who was a son, they called DAY, because he was much handsomer, and more beautiful than his sister.

The queen suspecting that these frequent huntings, at all seasons, was only a pretence to colour some other engagements, had the prince watched, and found that he always left his party when he came to the wood, and retired into it; she therefore resolved, the very first opportunity she had, to unriddle the mystery. An opportunity soon offered; for the emperor Cantalabutte, (whose territories joined those of our prince's father,) declared war against him, because he suffered his subjects to wear their hair in queues, or tails, instead of having it cropped short in the neck. The prince was appointed generalissimo, and went at the head of the army to defend the kingdom against this powerful adversary.

The queen, as soon as the prince was departed, lost no time in going to the wood, entered it, and soon arrived at the castle, and pretending to be much fatigued, asked leave to rest herself, which the young princess not only readily granted, but ordered refreshments to be set before her. The queen made herself known, and the princess, in the height of her surprise, could not help exclaiming, "What! the mother of my prince, of my adored husband?" An explanation soon ensued. The queen then asked to see the children, which were brought to her. Their beautiful

white skins and tender years, made the Ogerish queen's mouth to water, and eyes to twinkie, and it was with much ado she refrained from giving them a bite when she took them up to kiss them. The queen soon after took her leave, promising the princess that she would procure her pardon of the king, and come in a few days and take her from that old ruinous castle, as she was pleased to style it, and introduce her at court. The princess was highly delighted at this promise, and thanked the queen again and again. But it was far from the intentions of this wicked cannibal to mention the affair to the king, who certainly would have protected the princess and his grandchildren: what she said was only a stratagem to get them in her power. In a few days, every thing being prepared, the queen came again in a close carriage, saying that the king wished to receive his daughter-in-law and grand-children in a private manner, previous to introducing them at court.

The princess not suspecting the truth, readily entered the carriage with her children; and the queen, instead of carrying her to court, brought her to a little country-house she had, situated in a deep glen, entirely surrounded with woods and rocks; so that it would have been a difficult matter for any one, but those acquainted with the way, to find out that a house was there. Here, then, the queen resolved to gratify her horrible longings. She was, however, obliged to defer this pleasure for a few days, because her cook was not yet arrived, nor had she prepared the sauce which she usually had at these delicious feasts.

In about a week the queen made another excursion to her country-house, taking with her the sauce and the cook. Having paid her respects to the princess, and kissed the children, she called the cook aside, and said to him, "I have a mind to eat little MORNING for my dinner to-morrow!" "Ah! madam," cried the cook, pray consider the pretty creature is your grand-daughter." "I will have it so," replied the queen in an angry tone, "fail not at your peril; and let her be well seasoned,

and with plenty of my favourite sauce." The poor man knowing very well that he must not play tricks with Ogresses, took his great knife, and went up into little MORNING's chamber, very early the next day, intending to kill her before breakfast; but the pretty little girl, who was already drest and had just said her prayers, supposing that he had brought her some sugar candy, ran up to him, jumping and laughing, and caught him round the neck as he stooped to plunge the knife into her. This so affected the poor man, who had a good heart, although he was cook to such a wicked woman, that he could not refrain from tears; so, instead of killing her, he took her by the hand, and carried her to a little room he had at the bottom of the garden, and went and killed a little lamb, and dressed it so excellently, that his mistress assured him she had never eaten any thing so good in her life. As soon as the wicked queen returned home, which she did that same evening, the cook carried little MORNING to the castle in the wood, which had been abandoned by its inhabitants, who supposed that the princess would never return, and therefore were impatient to see the world they had been so long estranged from. He then brought his wife and servant, and telling them who little MORNING was, begged them to take great care of her, for he never suspected that the queen would ever think of going to the castle again.

About eight days afterwards the queen paid them another visit, and said to the master cook, "I will eat little DAY." He answered not a word, being resolved to cheat her as he had done before; he therefore went to look for little DAY, who he found in the nursery spelling aloud, c-a-t cat, d-o-g dog, for he could but just spell short words, being but three years old. As soon as he saw the master cook, he put his book down on the stool, and immediately went up to him in the politest manner imaginable, and took hold of his hand, supposing that he had come with some message to his mamma; but the cook took him up in his arms, without saying one word, and hid him as he had done

his sister, and in his room he cooked up a young kid, so very nice that the Ogress queen was quite delighted with it.

Assoon as she was gone, he also conveyed little DAY to his sister in the old castle. This was hitherto all mighty well: but on her next visit, this wicked queen said to him, "I will eat the young princess with the same sauce I had with her children." It was now that the poor master cook despaired of being able to deceive her; the princess was about twenty, not reckoning the hundred years she had been asleep; her skin was somewhat tough, though very fair and white; and how to find a beast so firm was what puzzled him. He then took a resolution, that he might save his own life, to cut the princess's throat, and going up into her chamber, with intent to do it at once, he put himself into as great a fury as he possibly could, and came into her room with his dagger in his hand; he would not, however, surprise her, but told her, with a great deal of respect, the orders he had received from the queen. "Do it! do it!" said she, stretching out her neck, "execute your orders, and then I shall go to my dear children—my poor children whom I so much and so tenderly loved;" for she thought them dead ever since they had been taken away without her knowledge. "No, no, madam," cried the poor cook, all in tears, "you shall not die; and yet you shall see your children again; only conceal yourself somewhere until the queen is gone, when I will bring you to them." The princess uttered a cry of joy at this unexpected news, and promised to keep herself very close. The master cook then went, and forthwith dressed in her stead a young hind, which the queen had for her supper, and devoured it with the same appetite as if it had been the young princess. Exceedingly was she delighted with her cruelty; she then invented a story to tell her son at his return. As soon, therefore, as she returned home, she caused it to be noised about that the wood, in which the castle was situated, was greatly infested by banditti, who murdered and destroyed every

one that came in their way. In order to give a colour to this story, she intended, in a few days, to take a large party of soldiers and scour the wood, and, under the pretext of the banditti having taken shelter in the castle, to batter down the doors and windows, so that, when her son returned, he might suppose that this had been done by the robbers, who had murdered or carried away all his family.

In the meantime, the cook, so soon as the queen was departed, carried the princess to her children. Never, surely, was meeting so tender, the transports of this amiable mother, and the caresses of her affectionate children, were without bounds; but, alas! their troubles are not yet at an end. The queen, soon after her arrival at home, found that a peace was nearly concluded, and, expecting her son, found, in order to deceive him, that she had no time to lose; she therefore took the soldiers and entered the wood. While they were searching the wood, she ran on to the castle to see that all was as she left it. On her approach, she heard the sound of many voices, and every now and then bursts of laughter: she crept softly to an open window, and peeping in, guess her astonishment at seeing the princess, her two children, the master cook, and his wife, playing at blind-man's-buff, while the maid servant was looking on and laughing. She uttered such a terrible yell, that it struck horror to their hearts; they instantly stopped their merriment, and instinctively turned their eyes to the window, when they encountered the furious looks, and imp-like gestures, of the Ogress queen. It is impossible to express their feelings at this sight, they were struck motionless, and seized with such a fit of trembling, that they could scarce support themselves. The queen called for her guards, with an enraged voice; they, supposing she was surrounded by the banditti, ran to her assistance in haste: she commanded them instantly to strip and bind the princess, her two children, the master cook, his wife, and their maid. She then ordered the large brewing copper to be filled with oil, and a fire to be lighted under it, intending, as soon as

it boiled, to put them all in, as the cruellest death she could devise. While the oil was heating, she exulted over her unfortunate victims, every now and then pricking them with pins, and enjoying the pain it put them too. The oil was now on the point of boiling, and the poor creatures expected in a few minutes that they should be plunged into it. The queen approached the copper in order to try if the oil was sufficiently heated for her diabolical purpose, when the princess took the opportunity of kneeling down with her children to implore the divine mercy. At this awful moment, when nothing but death was expected, a sudden cry of make way! make way! was heard; when instantly, on a horse all covered with foam, entered the prince; he was struck with astonishment at seeing his amiable wife and lovely children in this situation. The queen, overcome with rage, disappointment, and shame, instantly threw herself headlong into the boiling oil, which she had intended for her victims. She was extricated as quick as possible, but it was too late to save her life; she died very soon in great agonies. The prince could not but be very sorry, for she was his mother, although an Ogress. He however comforted himself in the reflection that he had so opportunely saved his dear wife and children. It appears that, hearing the report that numerous banditti infested the wood which surrounds his castle, he hastened with the utmost speed, with the intention of removing his wife and children to a place of greater safety. We have seen how fortunately he arrived; he now resolved to take his family to court, where they arrived the next day. The king received them very affectionately, and being much hurt at the ill conduct of the deceased queen, and convinced of his son's ability to govern, by the able manner that he negotiated the peace, he resigned his crown to him, and retired to a palace he had in the country. The prince and princess, now king and queen, lived long and happy, and where succeeded by little DAY, who became a great king, and who took care, by the example of his mother, not to marry without the consent of his parents.

BLANCH AND ROSALINDA.

In a pleasant village some miles from the metropolis, there lived a very good sort of woman, who was much beloved by all her neighbours, because she was always ready to assist every one who was in need. She had received in her youth a better education than the inhabitants of the little village in which she dwelt, and for this reason the poor people looked up to her with a degree of respect.

She was the widow of a very good man, who, when he died, left her with two children. They were very pretty girls: the eldest, on account of the fairness of her complexion, was named Blanch, and the other Rosalinda, because her cheeks were like roses, and her lips like coral.

One day, while Goody Hearty sat spinning at the door, she saw a poor old woman going by, leaning on a stick, who had much ado to hobble along. "You seem very much tired dame," said she to the old woman, "sit down here, and rest yourself a little;" at the same time she bid her daughters fetch a chair: they both went, but Rosalinda ran fastest, and brought one. "Will you please to drink?" said, Goody Hearty. "Thank you," answered the old woman, "I don't care if I do, and methinks if you had any thing *nice* that I liked, I could eat a bit." "You are welcome to the best I have in my house," said Goody Hearty, "but as I am poor, it is homely fare."

She then ordered her daughters to spread a clean cloth on the table, while she went to the cupboard, from whence she took some brown bread and cheese, to which she added a mug of cider. As soon as the old woman was seated at the table, Goody Hearty desired her eldest daughter to go and gather some plumbs off her own plumb-tree, which she had planted herself, and took great delight in. Blanch, instead of obeying her mother readily, grumbled and muttered

as she went. "Surely," said she to herself, "I did not take all this care and pains with my plumb-tree for that old greedy creature." However, she durst not refuse gathering a few plumbs, but she gave them with a very ill will, and very ungraciously. "As for you, Rosalinda," said her mother, "you have no fruit to offer this good dame, for your grapes are not ripe." "That's true," replied Rosalinda, "but my hen has just laid, for I hear her cackle, and if the gentlewoman likes a new laid egg, 'tis very much at her service;" and, without staying for an answer, she ran to the hen-roost, and brought the egg: but just as she was presenting it to the old woman she turned into a fine beautiful lady!

"Good woman," said she to Goody Hearty, "I have long seen your industry, perseverance, and pious resignation, and I will reward your daughters according to their merits: the eldest shall be a great queen, the other shall have a country farm:" with this she struck the house with her stick, which immediately disappeared, and in its room up came a pretty little snug farm. "This, Rosalinda," said she, "is your lot; I know I have given each of you what you like best."

Having said this, the fairy went away, leaving both mother and daughters greatly astonished. They went into the farm-house, and were quite charmed with the neatness of the furniture; the chairs were only wood, but so bright you might see your face in them. The beds were of linen-cloth, as white as snow. There were forty sheep in the sheep-pen; four oxen, and four cows, in their stalls; and in the yard all sorts of poultry, hens, ducks, pigeons, &c. There was also a pretty garden, well stocked with flowers, fruit, and vegetables.——Blanch saw the fairy's gift to her sister without being jealous, and was wholly taken up with the thoughts of being a queen; when, all of a sudden, she heard some hunters riding by, and going to the gate to see them, she appeared so charming, in the king's eyes, who was there, that he resolved to marry her.

When Blanch was a queen, she said to her sister Rosalinda, " I do not care you should be a farmer; come with me, sister, and I will match you to some great lord." " I am very much obliged to you, sister," replied Rosalinda," but I am used to a country life, and I chuse to stay where I am."

Queen Blanch arrived at her palace, and was so delighted with her new dignity, that she could not sleep for several nights: the first three months her thoughts were wholly engrossed by dress, balls, and plays, so that she thought of nothing else. She was soon accustomed to all this, and nothing now diverted her; on the contrary, she found a great deal of trouble.

The ladies of the court were all very respectful in her presence; but she knew very well that they did not love her, and when out of her sight, would often say to one another, " see what airs this little country girl gives herself, sure his majesty must have a very mean fancy to make choice of such a consort." These discourses soon reached the king's ears, and made him reflect on what he had done: he began to think he was wrong, and repented his marriage. The courtiers saw this, and accordingly paid her little or no respect: she was very unhappy, for she had not a single friend to whom she could declare her griefs; she saw it was the fashion at court to betray the dearest friend for interest, to caress and smile upon those they most hated, and to lie every instant: she was obliged to be always serious, because they told her a queen ought to look grave and majestic. She had several children, and all the time there was a physician to inspect whatever she ate or drank; and to order every thing she liked off the table: not a grain of salt was allowed to be put in her soup, nor was she permitted to take a walk, though she had ever so much a mind to it. Governesses were appointed to her children, who brought them up contrary to her wishes; yet she had not the liberty to find fault. Poor queen Blanch was dying with grief, and grew so thin, that it was a pity to see her. She had not seen her sister

for three years, because she imagined it would disgrace a person of her rank and dignity to pay a visit to a farmer's wife. Her extreme melancholy made her very ill, and her physicians ordered change of air. She therefore resolved to spend a few days in the country, to divert her uneasiness, and improve her health.

Accordingly, she asked the king leave to go, who very readily granted it, because he thought he should be rid of her for some time. She set out, and soon arrived at the village. As she drew near Rosalinda's house, she beheld, at a little distance from the door, a company of shepherds and shepherdesses, who were dancing and making merry. "Alas!" said the queen sighing, "there once was a time when I used to divert myself like those poor people, and no one found fault with me." The moment Rosalinda perceived her sister, she ran to embrace her. The Queen ordered her carriage to stop, and alighting, rushed into her sister's arms, but Rosalinda was grown so plump, and had such an air of content, that the queen, as she looked on her, could not forbear bursting into tears.

Rosalinda was married to a farmer's son, who had no fortune of his own, but then he ever remembered, that he was indebted to his wife for every thing he had, and he strove to shew his gratitude, by his obliging behaviour. Rosalinda had not many servants, but those she had, loved her as though she had been their mother, because she used them kindly; she was beloved by all her neighbours, and they all endeavoured to shew it. She neither had, nor wanted, much money; corn, wine, and oil, were the growth of her farm; her cows supplied her with milk, butter, and cheese. The wool of her sheep was spun to clothe herself, her husband, and two children she had. They enjoyed perfect health, and when the work of the day was over, they spent the evening in all sorts of pastimes. "Alas!" cried the queen, "the fairy made me a sad present in giving me a crown. Content is not found in magnificent palaces, but in an innocent country life." Scarce had she done speaking, before the fairy appeared. "In making you a queen," said

the fairy, "I did not intend to reward, bu punish you for giving me your plumbs with an ill will. To be contented and happy, you must, like your sister, possess only what is necessary, and wish for nothing else."

"Ah! madam," cried Blanch, "you are sufficiently revenged; pray put an end to my distress." "It is at an end," said the fairy, "the king, who loves you no longer, has just married another wife, and to-morrow his officers will come to forbid you returning any more to the palace." It happened just as the fairy had foretold, and Blanch passed the remainder of her days with her sister Rosalinda, in all manner of happiness and content, never thought again of court, unless it was to thank the fairy for having brought her back to her native village.

PERONELLA.

OR THE VANITY OF HUMAN WISHES.

ONCE upon a time there was a queen so old, that her teeth had dropped out, her hair had fallen off, and her head shook like an aspen leaf, nor could she see even with spectacles. Her nose and chin almost touched each other, and she was shrunk to somewhat more than half of her former height; she was all of a heap, and her back was so round that one could not but suppose she had been hunch-backed all her life.

A fairy, who had been present at the birth of the queen, just now paid her a visit, and, seeing her burthened with age and infirmity, asked her majesty if she wished to grow young again.

"How can you doubt it?" replied the queen: "there is not a jewel in my caskets but I would give to be once more only twenty years of age."

"If it be so," continued the fairy, "we must immediately look out for some young blooming creature, who for the sake of your majesty's great riches will take upon her the hundred years you would fain get rid of. Does your majesty think we shall be able to find such a person?"

"We will try," replied the queen; and immediately

Blanch and Rosalinda.

Peronella.

ordered the strictest search to be made throughout her dominions, for a young lass who should be willing to give her youth in exchange for age, infirmities, and riches.

It was not long before several covetous creatures made their appearance to accept the proffered conditions: but when they saw how the old queen coughed, and spit, and rattled in her throat; how she lived upon spoon-meat; how dirty she was; that she was wrinkled, and her person smelled disagreeably; what pain she suffered; and how many times she said over the same thing, they said they preferred their own condition, poor and miserable as it was, to riches and the hundred years of her majesty.

Afterward there came some persons of a still more ambitious temper: to these the queen promised the most profitable places and the highest honours. At first they were extremely willing; but when they had stayed a short time with her majesty, they shook their heads as they left the room, saying: "Of what use would all the queen possesses be to us, since, being so very hideous and disgusting, we could not venture to show ourselves to any one?"

At length a young lass from a country village presented herself. She was extremely beautiful, and declared herself willing to accept of the crown in exchange for the youth:—her name was Peronella.

At first the queen was very angry; but what end could it answer to be angry, since it was her determination to grow young again?

She proposed to Peronella to divide the kingdom with her: "You shall have one half, and I the other," said she: "this surely is enough for you, who are but a poor country girl."

No," replied Peronella: "this will by no means satisfy me. I will have the whole: or let me be still a country girl with my blooming complexion and my briskness, and do you keep your wrinkles and your hundred years, with Death himself treading upon your heels."

"But," continued the queen, "what shall I do if I give away my whole kingdom? "Do?" said Peronella. "Your majesty will laugh, dance, and sing, as I do:" and so saying, she laughed, danced, and sung before her.

The queen, who could do nothing like this, asked Peronella how she would amuse herself if she were in her place, a stranger as she was to the infirmities of age?

"I really cannot be quite sure what I would do," answered Peronella: "but I have a great mind to try the experiment, since every one says it is so fine a thing to be a queen."

While the queen and Peronella were thus making their agreement, the fairy herself entered the room, and said to the country lass: "Are you willing to make the trial, how you should like to be a queen, extremely rich, and a hundred years old?"

"I have no objection," said Peronella.

In a single instant her skin is all over wrinkles; her hair turns grey; she becomes peevish and ill-natured; her head shakes; her teeth drop out: she is already a hundred years old.

The fairy next opened a little box, and a numerous crowd of officers and courtiers all richly dressed, came out of it; who immediately rose to their full stature, and all paid a thousand compliments to the new queen.

A sumptuous repast is set before her: but she has not the least appetite; she cannot chew; she knows not what to say, or how to behave, and is quite ashamed at the figure she makes; she coughs till she is almost dead; she drivels, and a drop hangs at her nose, which she has not strength to wipe away; she sees herself in the looking-glass, and perceives she is as ugly and deformed as an old grandam ape.

In the mean while the real queen stood in a corner, smiling all the time to see how fresh and comely she was grown; what beautiful hair she had; and how her teeth were become white and firm.

Her complexion was fair and rosy, and she could skip about as nimbly as a deer: but then she was dressed in a short filthy rag of a petticoat, and her cap and apron seemed as if she had sifted cinders through them.

She scarcely dared to move in such clothes as these, to which she had never been accustomed; and the guards, who never suffered such dirty ragged-looking people within the palace gates, pushed her about with the greatest rudeness.

Peronella, who all the time was looking on, now said to her: "I see it is quite dreadful to you not to be a queen, and it is still more so to me to be one: pray take your crown again, and give me my ragged petticoat."

The change was immediately made. The queen grew old again, and Peronella as young and blooming as she had been before.

Scarcely was the change complete, than each began to repent of what she had done, and would have tried a little longer: but it was now too late. The fairy condemned them for ever after to remain in their own conditions.

The queen cried all day long, if her finger did but ache; saying, "Alas! if I were now but Peronella, I should, it is true, sleep in a poor cottage, and live on potatoes; but I should dance with the shepherds under a shady elm, to the soft sounds of the flute. Of what service is a bed of down to me, since it procures me neither sleep nor ease? or so many attendants, since they cannot change my unhappy condition?"

Thus the queen's fretfulness increased the pain she suffered: nor could the twelve physicians, who constantly attended her, be of the least service. In short, she died about two months after.

Peronella was dancing with her companions, on the fresh grass by the side of a transparent stream, when the first news of the queen's death reached her: so she said to her companions: "How fortunate I was in preferring my own humble lot to that of a kingdom."

Soon after, the fairy came again to visit Peronella, and gave her the choice of three husbands: the first was old, peevish, disagreeable, jealous, and cruel; but, at the same time, rich, powerful, and a man of high distinction, who would never suffer her by day or night to be, for a single moment, out of his sight.

The second was handsome, mild, and amiable; he was descended from a noble family, but was extremely poor, and unlucky in all his undertakings.

The third, like herself, was of poor extraction, and a shepherd; but neither handsome nor ugly: he would be neither overfond nor neglectful; neither rich nor very poor. Peronella knew not which to choose; for she was passionately fond of fine clothes, of a coach, and of great distinction.

But the fairy, seeing her hesitate, said: "What a silly girl you are! If you would be happy, you must choose the shepherd.

"Of the second you would be too fond; the first would be too fond of you; either would make you miserable: be content, if the third never treat you unkindly.

"It is a thousand times better to dance on the green grass, or on the fern, than in a palace; and to be poor Peronella in a village, than a fine lady who is for ever sick and discontented at court.

"If you will determine to think nothing of grandeur and riches, you may lead a long and happy life with your shepherd, in a state of the most perfect content."

Peronella took the advice of the fairy, and became a proof to all of the happiness that awaits a simple and virtuous life.

FORTUNATUS,

AND THE WISHING CAP.

In the city of Famagosta, in the island of Cyprus, there lived a gentleman possessed of immense riches.

His name was Theodorus: he married the most beautiful lady in Cyprus, and she was as rich as himself: she was called Graciana.

They thought themselves, to be sure, extremely happy in being able to keep the finest house and gardens imaginable; and in entertaining their friends not only with the most delicate repasts, but diversions of every kind. Among the rest, they rode out on the most stately horses ever beheld, which were covered with the richest housings; they had pleasure-boats painted with the finest colours, to take them on the water when the weather was not too hot; and had besides all sorts of musical instruments.

In addition to all this, the lady Graciana brought her husband a fine little son: so that one would think nothing could have prevented Theodorus and the lady Graciana from being the happiest and most contented persons in all the world.

This however was not long the case. The lady Graciana, it is true, was as contented as could be; but Theodorus, when he had enjoyed all those gratifications for some time, grew tired of them: not even the smiles of the pretty little Fortunatus, for he was christened by that name, could prevent him from thinking he should find more pleasure in going into company with the gayest gentlemen of Famagosta.

Theodorus accordingly made acquaintance with some young noblemen of the court, with whom he sat up all night, drinking, and playing cards; and in a few years spent with them his whole fortune: so that he was obliged to send away his servants; and, at last, had no longer the means of providing his family with even a loaf of bread.

He was now very sorry for what he had done; but it was too late; and there was no remedy for his foolish conduct, but to work at some trade to support his wife and child.

For all this, the lady Graciana did not say affronting things to him; but continued to love her husband as before; saying: "Dear Theodorus, I do not, it is

true, know how to work at any trade ; but, if I cannot help you in getting money, I will help you to save it ; for I will clean the house, and make the bread, and wash our clothes, all with my own hands ; and though they have not been used to such hard work, they will soon be able to bear it, if you will but love your Graciana and your Fortunatus."

So Theodorus set to work : and the lady Graciana, who had always been accustomed to ring her bell for every thing she wanted, now scoured the kettles, and washed the clothes with her own hands.

They went on in this manner for several years, till Fortunatus was sixteen years of age. One day when they were all seated at dinner, Theodorus fixed his eyes very sorrowfully on his son, and sighed deeply. " What ails you, my father?" said Fortunatus. " Ah! my boy," says Theodorus, " I have reason enough to be sorrowful, when I think of the noble fortune I have squandered, and that my folly will be the means of obliging you to labour, as I do, for subsistence."

" Father," replied Fortunatus, " never grieve about it: I have often thought that it is time I should do something for myself; and though I have not been brought up to any trade, yet I trust I can find how to gain a subsistence in some way or other."

When Fortunatus had finished his dinner, he took his hat and wandered to the sea-side, determined to employ himself in thinking of what steps he could pursue, so as to be no longer a burthen to his father and mother.

It happened that just as he had reached the sea-shore, the earl of Flanders, who had been to Jerusalem, and on his return home had touched at Cyprus, was getting on board his ship with all his retinue to set sail for Flanders. Fortunatus instantly thought of offering himself to be his page. The earl, seeing he was a very smart-looking lad, and hearing the quick replies he made to the questions he asked him, was very willing to engage him ; so without further ceremony he went on board.

On their way the ship touched at Venice; where Fortunatus had an opportunity of seeing many new and surprising things, which both helped to raise his desire of travelling, and to improve his understanding.

Soon after they arrived in Flanders, and had not been long on shore before the earl his master was married to the daughter of the duke of Cleves: and the ceremony was accompanied by all sorts of public rejoicings, tilts, tournaments, and entertainments, which lasted several days: among the rest the earl's lady gave two jewels as prizes to be tilted for, each of the value of one hundred crowns.

One of these was won by Fortunatus, and the other by Timothy, an attendant on the duke of Burgundy; who afterwards challenged Fortunatus to run another tilt with him, so that he that should win should have both the jewels. Accordingly they tilted; and at the fourth course Fortunatus hoisted Timothy a full spear's length from his horse, and thus won both the jewels; which pleased the earl and countess so much, that they praised Fortunatus, and held him in greater esteem than ever.

Upon this occasion, also, Fortunatus received many rich presents from the nobility who were present: but the high favour he enjoyed made his fellow-servants jealous; and one among them, whose name was Robert, who had always pretended a great friendship for Fortunatus, made him believe that, notwithstanding all the earl's kindness, he in secret envied Fortunatus his great skill at tournaments and tilting; assuring him that he had heard the earl give private orders to one of his servants to find some means of killing him next day, while they should all be out a hunting.

Fortunatus thanked the treacherous Robert for what he thought a great kindness, and next day at day-break he took the swiftest horse in the earl's stables, and left his dominions.

The earl, hearing that Fortunatus had suddenly withdrawn himself, was much surprised, and questioned all his servants respecting what they knew of

the affair; but they all denied knowing any thing about it, or for what reasons he had left them: to which the earl replied, "that he was a lad for whom he had a great esteem; that some of them must have offered him an affront; and that, whenever he found it out, he would not fail to punish it severely."

In the mean time Fortunatus, being out of the earl's dominions, stopped at an inn for some refreshment: here he began to consider what he was worth; and having taken out all his fine clothes and jewels to look at, he could not help putting them on, and looking at himself in the glass, admiring vastly what a fine smart fellow he looked like: then taking out his purse, he counted the money that had been given him by the lords and ladies at the tournament.

Finding that, in all, he was worth five hundred crowns, he bought a horse, taking care to send back that which he had taken from his master's stables. He then set of for Calais; crossed the channel, landed safely at Dover, and proceeded to London; where he soon introduced himself into genteel company, and had once the honour to dance with the daughter of a duke at the lady mayoress's ball: but this sort of life, as it may well be supposed, soon exhausted his little stock of money.

When Fortunatus found himself pennyless, he began to think of returning to France, and soon after embarked in a ship bound to Picardy: here he landed; but finding no means of employing himself, he set off for Brittany; when happening to cross a wood he lost his way, and was obliged to stay in it all night.

The next morning he was but little better off than before, for he could find no path: so he wandered about from one part of the wood to another, till at length, on the evening of the second day, he happened to meet with a spring, at which he drank very heartily; but still he had nothing to eat, and was ready to die of hunger.

When night again came on, hearing the growling of wild beasts, he climbed up a high tree for safety; no sooner had he seated himself in it before a lion

walked fiercely up to the spring to drink: this frightened him exceedingly. The lion being gone, a bear came to drink also; and as the moon shone very bright he looked up and saw Fortunatus, and immediately began to climb up the tree to get at him.

Fortunatus however drew his sword, and sat quietly till the bear was come within arm's length, and then pierced him with it in the body several times: which made the bear so very furious, that, making a great effort to get to Fortunatus, the bough broke, and down he fell, and lay sprawling and making a hideous yell on the ground.

Fortunatus, looking round on all sides, and seeing no more wild beasts near, thought this would be an excellent opportunity to get rid of the bear at once; so down he comes, and kills him at a single blow: being almost famished for want of food, he stooped down and was going to suck the blood of the bear; when, once more looking round, to see if any wild beast was coming, what was his astonishment at beholding a beautiful lady standing by his side, with a bandage over her eyes, leaning upon a wheel, and looking as if she intended to speak!

The lady did not make him wait long before she pronounced the following words: "Know, young man, that my name is Fortune: I have the power to bestow on mortals, wisdom, strength, riches, health, beauty, and long life: one of these I am willing to bestow on thee; choose for thyself which it shall be."

Fortunatus was not a moment before he answered: "Gracious lady, I prefer to have riches in such abundance that I may never again know what it is to be so very hungry as I now find myself."

The lady then presented him with a purse, telling him that, in whatever country he might happen to be, he had only to put his hand into the purse as often as he pleased, and he would be sure to find in it ten pieces of gold; that the purse should never fail of producing the like sum as long as it remained in the possession of him and his children; but that when he

and his children should be dead, then the purse should lose this extraordinary quality.

Fortunatus could scarce contain himself for joy, and began to thank the lady very eagerly: but she told him he had better think of making the best of his way out of the wood, and accordingly directed him which path to take, and then bade him farewell.

He walked by the light of the moon as fast as his weak condition would allow of, till he came near an inn; before he went in, however, he thought it would be prudent to see if the lady Fortune had been as good as her word: so he put his hand in his purse, and to his great joy counted ten pieces of gold.

Having no thing to fear, Fortunatus walked boldly into the inn, and called for the best supper they could get ready in a minute: "for," says he, "I must wait till to-morrow before I am very nice: with my present appetite any thing will do."

Fortunatus very soon satisfied his hunger, and called for every sort of wine the house afforded; and after supper began to think what sort of life he should now lead: "for," says he, "I shall now have money enough for every thing I can desire."

He slept that night on the very best bed in the house; and the next day ordered the most sumptuous provisions of every kind: if he rang his bell, all the waiters tried who should run fastest to inquire what he pleased to want; and the landlord himself, hearing what a princely guest was come to his house, took care to be standing at the door to bow to him when he should be passing out.

Fortunatus inquired of the landlord, if any fine horses could be got in the neighbourhood; also, if he knew of some smart-looking clever men-servants who wanted places. The landlord fortunately was able to get him provided with both, to his great liking.

Being thus furnished with every thing he wanted, he set out on the handsomest horse that was ever seen, attended by two servants, for the nearest town; where he bought some magnificent suits of clothes, and put

his two servants in liveries laced with gold, and then proceeded to Paris.

Here he took the finest house that was to be got, and lived in great splendour; he entertained the nobility, and gave the finest balls to all the most beautiful ladies of the court. He went to all public places of entertainment, and the first lords in the country constantly invited him to their houses.

He had lived in this manner for about a year, when he began to think of returning to Famagosta to visit his parents, whom he had left in a very poor condition. "But," says Fortunatus, "as I am young and inexperienced, I should like to meet with some person of more knowledge than I have, who would make my journey both useful and pleasing to me.

He had not long wished this, before he fell into company with a venerable old gentleman called Loch Fitty, who he found was a native of Scotland, and had left a wife and ten children, a great many years ago, in hopes to better his fortune; but was now, owing to different accidents, poorer than ever, and had not money enough even to take him back to his family.

Loch Fitty, finding how much Fortunatus desired to obtain knowledge, related to him many of the strange adventures he had met with; and gave him an account of all the kingdoms he had been in, as well as of the customs, dress, and manners of the inhabitants.

Says Fortunatus to himself: "This is the very man I stand in need of;" so without further ceremony he made him a very advantageous proposal, which the old gentleman accepted, on condition that he should be first permitted to go and visit his family.

Fortunatus assured him he had not the least objection; "and," added he, "as I am a little tired of being always in the midst of such noisy pleasures as one finds at Paris, I will, with your leave, go with you to Scotland and see your wife and children."

They set out the very next day, and arrived at the house of Loch Fitty; Fortunatus not having once, in all the way, desired to change his kind companion for the splendid entertainments he had quitted.

Loch Fitty embraced his wife and children, five of whom were daughters, and the most beautiful creatures he had ever beheld. When they had taken some refreshment, his wife said to him: "Ah! dear lord Loch Fitty, how happy I am to see you once again! now I trust we shall enjoy each other's company for the rest of our lives! What signifies that we are poor! We will be content, if you will but promise you will not again think of leaving us to get wealth, only because we have a title.

Fortunatus listened with great surprise. "What," said he, "are you a lord? Then you shall be a rich lord too. And that you may not think you owe me any obligation for the fortune I shall give you, I will put it in your power to make me, on the contrary, much your debtor. Bestow on me your youngest daughter, called Cassandra; and let us have the pleasure of your company as far as Famagosta; and take your whole family with you, that you may have pleasant company on your way back, when you have rested in that place from your fatigue."

Lord Loch Fitty shed some tears of joy, to think he should at last see his family restored to all the honours it had once enjoyed; and after accepting Fortunatus as a husband for his daughter Cassandra, he related to him the misfortunes that obliged him to live in poverty at Paris, and call himself by the plain name of Loch Fitty.

When lord Loch Fitty had ended his story, they agreed that the lady Cassandra should the very next morning be asked to accept the hand of Fortunatus; and that, should she consent, they would embark in a few days for Famagosta.

The next morning the proposal was made in form, as was agreed on, and Fortunatus had the pleasure of hearing from the lips of the beautiful Cassandra, that the very first time she cast her eyes on him she thought him the most handsome and accomplished gentleman in all the world.

Every thing was soon ready for their departure

Fortunatus, lord Loch Fitty, his lady, and their ten children, embarked in a large commodious ship; they had prosperous winds, and landed happily in the port of Famagosta. They spent a few days in the necessary preparations, and the marriage was then celebrated with all the magnificence and rejoicings imaginable.

As Fortunatus found that his parents were both dead, he begged lord Loch Fitty would be kind enough to stay and keep him and his lady company; so they lived all together in the finest house that was to be got in the city of Famagosta, and gave the most splendid entertainments.

By the end of the first year, the lady Cassandra had a little son, who was christened Ampedo; and the year following, another, who was christened Andolocia.

For twelve years Fortunatus lived the happiest life imaginable with his wife and children, and his wife's relations; and each of her sisters having received a fortune from the bountiful purse of Fortunatus, they soon married to great advantage: but by this time his taste for travelling returned; and he thought, as he was now so much older and wiser than when he was at Paris, he should not want a companion; for lord Loch Fitty was at this time too old to bear fatigue.

After obtaining, with great difficulty, the consent of the lady Cassandra, who, at last, insisted on his staying only two years, he got every thing ready for his departure; and taking his lady into one of his private rooms, showed her three chests of gold, one of which he desired she would keep for herself, and take charge of the other two for their sons, in case any accident should befall him. He then led her back to the apartment where the whole family were sitting; and after tenderly embracing them all one by one, he set sail with a fair wind for Alexandria.

Fortunatus being told, on his arrival in this place, that it was customary to make a handsome present to the sultan, sent him a piece of plate that cost five thousand ducats. The sultan was so extremely pleased, that he ordered a hundred casks of spices to be pre-

Soon after, the fairy came again to visit Peronella, and gave her the choice of three husbands: the first was old, peevish, disagreeable, jealous, and cruel; but, at the same time, rich, powerful, and a man of high distinction, who would never suffer her by day or night to be, for a single moment, out of his sight.

The second was handsome, mild, and amiable; he was descended from a noble family, but was extremely poor, and unlucky in all his undertakings.

The third, like herself, was of poor extraction, and a shepherd; but neither handsome nor ugly: he would be neither overfond nor neglectful; neither rich nor very poor. Peronella knew not which to choose; for she was passionately fond of fine clothes, of a coach, and of great distinction.

But the fairy, seeing her hesitate, said: "What a silly girl you are! If you would be happy, you must choose the shepherd.

"Of the second you would be too fond; the first would be too fond of you; either would make you miserable: be content, if the third never treat you unkindly.

"It is a thousand times better to dance on the green grass, or on the fern, than in a palace; and to be poor Peronella in a village, than a fine lady who is for ever sick and discontented at court.

"If you will determine to think nothing of grandeur and riches, you may lead a long and happy life with your shepherd, in a state of the most perfect content."

Peronella took the advice of the fairy, and became a proof to all of the happiness that awaits a simple and virtuous life.

FORTUNATUS,

AND THE WISHING CAP.

In the city of Famagosta, in the island of Cyprus, there lived a gentleman possessed of immense riches.

told Fortunatus it was of greater value than all the rest.

Fortunatus imagined the sultan was jesting, and told him he had seen many a better cap than that—"Ah!" said the sultan, "that is because you do not know its value. Whoever puts this cap on his head, and wishes himself in any part of the world, is instantly conveyed thither."

"Indeed!" says Fortunatus: "and pray is the man living who made it?

"That I know nothing about," said the sultan.

"Really one would scarcely have believed it," says Fortunatus. "Pray, sir, is it very heavy?"

"Not at all," replied the sultan: "you may feel it."

Fortunatus took up the cap, put it on his head, and could not help wishing himself on board the ship that was going back to Famagosta. In less than a moment he was carried through the winds on board of her, just as she was ready to set sail; and there being a brisk gale, they were out of sight in less than half an hour.

The ship arrived in safety at Famagosta after a happy passage, and Fortunatus had the satisfaction to find his wife and children well; but lord Loch Fitty and his lady had died of old age, and were buried side by side.

Fortunatus now began to take great pleasure in educating his two boys; and accustomed them to all sorts of manly exercises, such as wrestling, tilts, and tournaments. Now and then he recollected the wonderful cap he had in his possession, and at such times would wish he could just take a peep at what was passing in different countries; when, though his wish never failed to be accomplished, yet, as he always contented himself with staying only an hour or two, the lady Cassandra never missed him, and had no further uneasiness about his love of travelling.

At last, Fortunatus began to get old, and the lady Cassandra fell sick and died. The loss of her caused him so much grief, that soon after he fell sick; and

believing he had not long to live, he called his two sons to his bedside, and told them the secret of the purse and cap, which he desired they would on no account disclose to any one: "Follow my example," says Fortunatus: I have had the purse these forty years, and no living creature knew from what source I obtained my riches."

He then recommended to them to make use of the purse between them, and to live together in harmony; and, embracing them, died soon after.

Fortunatus was buried in great pomp by the side of the lady Cassandra, in his own chapel, and was for a long time mourned by the people of Famagosta.

It was not long after the death of Fortunatus, when Andolocia came to his brother Ampedo; who, being the eldest, had the purse in his possession, and begged he would let him have it for a certain time, as he wished to set out on his travels for distant countries: to this Ampedo would by no means consent; and they came to high words concerning it. At length, however, Ampedo consented to let his brother have the purse for six years; and accordingly, after filling all his coffers, he gave it into his hands; with this agreement, however, that he was afterward to keep it for as long a time himself.

As Andolocia possessed exactly his father's temper in his love of travelling to distant countries, he was overjoyed to think he had obtained the purse, and immediately began his preparations for setting out. The first place he visited was Paris.

In this place there was a famous wrestler called Strongfist, who had never yet been thrown by any man. Andolocia sent him a challenge, which Strongfist willingly accepted, and a day was appointed for the combat: in the mean while the news reached all the inhabitants of Paris, who accordingly resolved to be witness of the scene.

The combatants met at the time and place appointed, and fell to with great spirit; but it was soon seen that Strongfist was not half so skilful as Andolocia,

who, after a few blows, made him cry out he could fight no longer.

No sooner, however, was Strongfist recovered of the blows he had received, than, enraged to think he had been conquered by a stranger, and lost his reputation, he sent Andolocia another challenge; and they accordingly met as before.

But Strongfist gained nothing by this second attempt; for Andolocia made him once more cry out, "He was satisfied;" so that the air resounded with the acclamations bestowed on Andolocia, while Strongfist was so maimed he could never after engage in wrestling.

After staying some time longer in Paris, where he was loaded with every mark of distinction, the news of his great skill reached England, and he was invited by the king to the court of London; for, being just at that time going to war with the king of Scotland, he wished to have Andolocia's advice how to conduct his army.

Andolocia accepted the proposal with joy: for it was the king of Scotland's father who had deprived his grandfather, the lord Loch Fitty, of all his fortune, and caused him to leave his lady and his home and live in a mean condition in Paris.

He lost no time in preparing for the journey, and reached London in safety, where he was received with marks of the greatest kindness by the king and the whole court: and Andolocia informing his majesty of the ill-will he owed the king of Scotland, on the late king's account, it was immediately agreed on that he should head an army of the choicest troops in the English dominions and march against him.

They accordingly set out for Scotland; had a furious battle with the king, and defeated him and his whole army; and, returning to London, was loaded with the highest honours at the court of the king of England.

Andolocia took a magnificent house in the finest square in London, and frequently entertained the king

and all his nobles, whom he treated in so sumptuous a manner, that the king could not help wondering how a private gentleman could possibly have so much wealth.

One day Andolocia being at court, he happened to see the king's daughter, Agrippina, with whom he fell violently in love, and made her such costly presents as surprised the king more than before, so that he could not help telling the queen he could not imagine how he came by such a fortune.

The queen immediately set herself to work to find out the secret, and accordingly she told her daughter Agrippina, when she should be alone with him to find it out if possible.

Soon after Andolocia, being seated by the princess, told her how very beautiful he thought her, and how much he wished for the honour of having her for his wife.

The princess thought this a very good opportunity for finding out the secret, so she answered: That she liked him very well, but supposed he could not possibly have sufficient fortune to maintain the daughter of a king.

Upon this Andolocia pulled out his purse, and threw ten pieces of gold at a time into her lap; and at length told her how it came into his father's possession, and every particular concerning it.

The princess Agrippina hastened to tell the queen all she had heard; who pretending the greatest fondness for Andolocia, took him into her closet, and presented him with a glass of the richest cordial, into which she had put a drug that soon threw him into a sound sleep; when, putting her hand into his pocket, she took his purse, and had him immediately conveyed to his own house fast asleep.

The queen then gave the purse to the young princess, saying, as it was for her sake she had taken it, it was but right that it should be in her possession.

When Andolocia waked and missed his purse, he was almost frantic: when he had run about the house

a long time, not knowing what to do, he at last thought of what had happened to him at the palace, whither he immediately went and asked to speak with the queen, and was told she could not be seen. He then inquired for the princess, and obtained the same answer. All this convinced Andolocia that the queen had taken his purse, and did not intend to return it. The first thing he did was to borrow a hundred crowns of his steward, by means of which he got to Famagosta as fast as he could, and, with great difficulty, prevailed on his brother to spare him the cap for a short time, that he might transport himself in a moment, wherever he pleased.

Having obtained it he put it on, and instantly wished himself in princess Agrippina's chamber, whom he intended to consult about getting back his purse from the queen.

But no astonishment could be greater than his, when, looking at the princess, he saw his purse fastened to her girdle. Andolocia perceiving this, desired of the princess to restore it, which she refusing, he clasped her in his arms and wished himself in an orchard full of fruit-trees in the neighbourhood of Constantinople.

His wish was instantly accomplished, and they found themselves sitting under a large fig-tree: when the princess, seeing what fine figs were on it, intreated him to get her one to eat. Andolocia, who loved Agrippina very much, notwithstanding she had used him so unkindly, immediately threw his cap upon the ground and began to climb the tree.

The princess, quite ignorant of the virtue in the cap, being greatly fatigued with the scorching of the sun, put it on her head, and happening at the same moment to be wishing she was in her cold bath at the palace of her father, she was immediately taken up into the air and was out of sight in a minute.

When Andolocia looked round and saw that both the princess and his cap were gone, he knew not, so great was his vexation, what step to take; but after

walking about some time, finding himself thirsty, he began to eat some apples, when two large horns sprang directly out of his forehead.

He now ran like a madman about the orchard, and his cries were heard by an aged hermit, who came up to him and inquired what was the matter? When Andolocia had related the manner in which the accident had happened, the hermit assured him that if he would eat some apples from another tree he would soon find his horns disappear.

Andolocia lost no time in doing as he was desired; and the horns accordingly disappeared. Having first filled his pockets with some of both sorts of these extraordinary apples, he set out on foot for the palace of princess Agrippina's father, where he stood at the gate disguised as a poor man who had the finest apples to sell that ever were seen in England.

The princess as she passed out observed the apples, and seeing that they were as fine as those she had seen in the orchard near Constantinople, began to buy them with great eagerness, and turned back again to the palace to eat them.

Immediately two great horns sprang from her forehead; upon which the princess screamed so loud as to alarm every one in the palace; and the king, among the rest, came in to her assistance.

Seeing what had happened, he called in all the physicians, to obtain a cure if possible; but not one was found who understood her case.

At length Andolocia, disguising himself as a physician with a great false nose, went to the palace and offered his services, which were willingly accepted.

Upon being shown into her room, he perceived his cap lying disregarded on a chair: so pretending he must speak with his patient in private, he sent the nurse out of the room, and in the mean while found an opportunity to put the cap into his pocket.

Andolocia then produced some of the apples that were a cure for the horns occasioned by those he had sold her, and having cut them very small, he desired

her to eat them immediately: when the horns from that moment began to grow less.

The princess was so delighted at this, that she thought she could not too handsomely reward her physician; so taking out her purse, he snatched it from her, clapped on his cap, and wished himself at Famagosta, whither he was immediately conveyed. But as he was in love with the princess, he took care not to give her enough of the apples to remove the horns entirely, that no other gentleman might fall in love with her.

Having related his adventures to his brother Ampedo, the latter said he had no inclination to have either the cap or purse, since they brought their possessor into so much danger, and would give them wholly to Andolocia, provided he consented to pay him a handsome allowance as long as he lived.

Thus Andolocia kept the purse and cap to himself; but though he had such immense treasures, and besides, the power of conveying himself wherever he pleased in a moment, he was not quite happy.

Being however convinced that nothing was wanting to make him so but Agrippina, he first set about building a magnificent palace, taking care every now and then to put on his cap and wish himself at the court of London, where he sometimes had the good fortune to see the princess as she took an airing in her carriage, and found means to know if the horns still remained on her head as before.

When the palace was finished, Andolocia equipped himself with all the splendour imaginable; and taking with him some of the handsomest gentlemen of Famagosta, who looked like great lords, and in addition the most costly jewels that were to be got as presents for the princess, he set out for England to demand her formally in marriage.

The king of England received him very courteously: the queen, supposing it impossible that any prince would offer to marry a princess with horns on her head, and perceiving there was no other way of getting

the purse, gave her consent also; and the princess Agrippina, who had always wished to bestow on him her hand, said, she really loved the prince, but that she would never bring so great a misfortune on him as to be his wife while she had horns on her head.

"Dear princess Agrippina," replied Andolocia, "then all our wishes will be gratified, for I have the power to make them disappear immediately."

Saying this he left the room, and returned in a few minutes with some of the apples he had given her once before, and which he had taken care to be provided with; when presenting them to the princess, he asked her if she did not remember the physician with the great nose, who some time before had made her horns grow less.

The princess fell to eating the apples presented her by Andolocia, and the horns immediately disappeared. She embraced Andolocia with tenderness; they were married that very day, and shortly after were conducted in the greatest pomp to the palace built for her reception at Famagosta, where they lived a long and a happy life.

Andolocia kept his cap and purse in a cabinet set apart for that purpose; and for fear of further accidents he never suffered the key of it to be touched by any one but himself.

TOADS AND DIAMONDS.

There was once upon a time a widow who had two daughters. The eldest was so extremely like her, both in temper and person, that whoever saw the one saw the other also; they were both so very proud and disagreeable that nobody could live with them.

The youngest, who was the exact picture of her father, in good-nature and sweetness of manner, wa also the most beautiful creature ever seen. As it is natural to love those who resemble us, the mother doted upon the eldest, and no less hated the youngest.

Tom Thumb.

Diamonds and Toads.

She made her eat in the kitchen, and work all the day with the servants.

Among other things, the poor child was obliged to go twice a day to draw water at a fountain more than a mile and a half distant from the house, and bring home a large pitcher filled with it, as well as she could. One day, when she was at the fountain, a poor woman came up to her, and asked her to let her drink. "That I will, Goody, most readily," said the sweet-tempered creature; and washing out the pitcher, she filled it at the clearest part of the fountain, and held it to the old woman's mouth that she might drink the more easily.

The old woman having drunk, said to her: "Since you are so pretty, so kind, and so obliging, my dear, I will bestow on you a gift (for it was a fairy in disguise who had asked her to drink, just to see how far the little girl's good-nature would go.) I give you," continued she, "that whenever you speak there shall come out of your mouth either a rose or a diamond."

When the sweet girl got home, her mother began to scold her for staying so long at the fountain. "I ask your pardon, mamma," said she, "for not being at home sooner;" and as she pronounced these words, there fell from her lips two roses, two pearls, and two large diamonds.

"What do I see!" cried the mother, quite astonished: "as sure as any thing she drops diamonds and pearls from her mouth in speaking! My child, how happens this?" (This was the first time she had ever called her 'My child.') The poor girl told her mother all that had befallen her at the fountain, dropping pearls and diamonds from her mouth all the time she was speaking.

"Upon my word," said her mother, "this is very lucky, truly: I will send my darling thither directly. Fanny! Fanny! look! do you see what falls from the mouth of your sister when she speaks? Should not you like to have the same gift bestowed on you? Well, you have only to go to the fountain, and when a

poor woman asks you to let her drink, to grant her request in the most civil manner."

"Vastly pretty, truly, it would be to see *me* go and draw water at the fountain! Not I, indeed," replied the proud creature. "But I insist upon your going, and this very moment too," answered her mother. The pert hussey accordingly set out, taking with her the best silver tankard in the house, and grumbling all the way as she went.

She had no sooner reached the fountain, than a lady most magnificently dressed came out of a wood just by, and asked her to let her drink. (This was the very fairy who had bestowed the rich gift on the youngest sister, and had now taken the dress and manners of a princess, to see how far the insolent airs of the haughty creature would go.) "Am I come here," said the ill-bred minx, "to draw water for you? Oh yes, the best silver tankard in the house was brought on purpose for your ladyship, I suppose! However, you may drink out of it if you have a fancy."

"You are not very obliging," replied the fairy, without putting herself in a passion: "but since you have behaved with so little civility, I give you for a gift, that at every word you speak there shall come out of your mouth either a toad or a viper."

As soon as her mother perceived her coming home, she called out, "Well, daughter!" "Well, mother," answered the pert hussey. And as she spoke, two toads and two vipers dropped from her mouth upon the ground. "Oh, mercy!" cried the mother, "what do I see? It is the jade thy sister who is the cause of all this! But she shall pay for it, I warrant her," and instantly went to look for her that she might beat her.

The poor innocent ran away as fast as she could, and reached a neighbouring forest. The king's son, who had been hunting, happened to meet her, and, observing how very beautiful she was, asked what she was doing all alone in the forest, and why she cried?

"Alas!" said she, sobbing as if her heart would

break, "my mother, sir, has turned me out of doors." The king's son, seeing pearls and diamonds fall from her mouth at every word she spoke, desired her to tell him the reason of such a wonder. The pretty creature accordingly related to him all that had befallen her at the fountain.

The prince was so charmed with her beauty and innocence, that he fell violently in love with her; and, recollecting also that the gift she possessed was worth much more than the largest marriage portion, conducted her to the palace of the king his father, and married her immediately.

As for her sister, she grew even perter than before, and behaved in all respects so very ill, that her own mother was obliged to turn her out of doors; and the miserable creature, after wandering a great way, and vainly trying to prevail on some one to give her food and shelter, went into a wood, and there died of grief and hunger.

PUSS IN BOOTS.

THERE was a miller who had three sons, and when he died he divided what he possessed among them in the following manner: He gave his mill to the eldest, his ass to the second, and his cat to the youngest.

Each of the brothers accordingly took what belonged to him without the help of an attorney, who would soon have brought their little fortune to nothing, in law expences.

The poor young fellow who had nothing but the cat, complained that he was hardly used: "My brothers," said he, "by joining their stocks together, may do very well in the world; but for me, when I have eaten my cat, and made a fur cap of his skin, I may soon die of hunger!"

The cat, who all this time sat listening just inside the door of a cupboard, now ventured to come out, and addressed him as follows:

"Do not thus afflict yourself, my good master:

you have only to give me a bag, and get a pair of boots made for me, so that I may scamper through the dirt and the brambles, and you shall see that you are not so ill provided for as you imagine."

Though the cat's master did not much depend upon these promises, yet, as he had often observed the cunning tricks Puss used to catch rats and mice, such as hanging by the hind legs, and hiding in the meal to make believe that he was dead, he did not entirely despair of his being of some use to him in his unhappy condition.

When the cat had obtained what he asked for, he gaily began to equip himself: he drew on the boots; and putting the bag about his neck, he took hold of the strings with his fore paws, and bidding his master take courage, immediately sallied forth.

The first attempt Puss made was to go into a warren, in which there was a great number of rabbits. He put some bran and some parsley into his bag; and then stretching himself out at full length as if he was dead, he waited for some young rabbits, who as yet knew nothing of the cunning tricks of the world, to come and get into the bag, the better to feast upon the dainties he had put into it.

Scarcely had he lain down before he succeeded as well as could be wished. A giddy young rabbit crept into the bag, and the cat immediately drew the strings, and killed him without mercy.

Puss, proud of his prey, hastened directly to the palace, where he asked to speak to the king. On being shown into the apartment of his majesty, he made a low bow, and said: "I have brought you, sire, this rabbit from the warren of my lord the marquis of Carabas, who commanded me to present it to your majesty with the assurance of his respect." (This was the title the cat thought proper to bestow upon his master.) "Tell my lord marquis of Carabas," replied the king, "that I accept of his present with pleasure, and that I am greatly obliged to him."

Soon after, the cat laid himself down in the same

manner in a field of corn, and had as much good fortune as before; for two fine partridges got into his bag, which he immediately killed and carried to the palace: he king received them as he had done the rabbit, and ordered his servants to give the messenger something to drink. In this manner he continued to carry presents of game to the king from my lord marquis of Carabas, once at least in every week.

One day, the cat having heard that the king intended to take a ride that morning by the river's side with his daughter, who was the most beautiful princess in the world, he said to his master: "If you will but follow my advice, your fortune is made. Take off your clothes, and bathe yourself in the river, just in the place I shall show you, and leave the rest to me."

The marquis of Carabas did exactly as he was desired, without being able to guess at what the cat intended. While he was bathing the king passed by, and Puss directly called out as loud as he could bawl: "Help! help! My lord marquis of Carabas is in danger of being drowned!" The king hearing the cries, put his head out at the window of his carriage to see what was the matter: when, perceiving the very cat who had brought him so many presents, he ordered his attendants to go directly to the assistance of my lord marquis of Carabas.

While they were employed in taking the marquis out of the river, the cat ran to the king's carriage, and told his majesty, that while his master was bathing, some thieves had run off with his clothes as they lay by the river's side; the cunning cat all the time having hid them under a large stone.

The king hearing this, commanded the officers of his wardrobe to fetch one of the handsomest suits it contained, and present it to my lord marquis of Carabas, at the same time loading him with a thousand attentions. As the fine clothes they brought him made him look like a gentleman, and set off his person, which was very comely, to the greatest advantage, the king's daughter was mightily taken with his appear

ance, and the marquis of Carabas had no sooner cast upon her two or three respectful glances, than she became violently in love with him.

The king insisted on his getting into the carriage, and taking a ride with them. The cat, enchanted to see how well his scheme was likely to succeed, ran before to a meadow that was reaping, and said to the reapers: "Good people, if you do not tell the king, who will soon pass this way, that the meadow you are reaping belongs to my lord marquis of Carabas, you shall be chopped as small as mince meat."

The king did not fail to ask the reapers, to whom the meadow belonged? "To my lord marquis of Carabas," said they all at once; for the threats of the cat had terribly frightened them. "You have here a very fine piece of land, my lord marquis," said the king. "Truly, sire," replied he, "it does not fail to bring me every year a plentiful harvest."

The cat, who still went on before, now came to a field were some other labourers were making sheaves of the corn they had reaped, to whom he said as before: "Good people, if you do not tell the king, who will presently pass this way, that the corn you have reaped in this field belongs to my lord marquis of Carabas, you shall be chopped as small as minced meat."

The king accordingly passed a moment after, and inquired to whom the corn he saw belonged? "To my lord marquis of Carabas," answered they very glibly; upon which the king again complimented the marquis on his noble possessions.

The cat still continued to go before, and gave the same charge to all the people he met with; so that the king was greatly astonished at the splendid fortune of my lord marquis of Carabas.

Puss at length arrived at a stately castle, which belonged to an Ogre, the richest ever known; for all the lands the king had passed through and admired were his. The cat took care to learn every particular about the Ogre, and what he could do, and then asked to speak with him, saying, as he entered the room in

which he was, that he could not pass so near his castle without doing himself the honour to inquire for his health.

The Ogre received him as civilly as an Ogre could do, and desired him to be seated. "I have been informed," said the cat, "that you have the gift of changing yourself into all sorts of animals; into a lion, or an elephant for example." "It is very true," replied the Ogre somewhat sternly; "and to convince you, I will directly take the form of a lion." The cat was so much terrified at finding himself so near to a lion, that he sprang from him, and climbed to the roof of the house; but not without much difficulty, as his boots were not very fit to walk upon the tiles.

Some minutes after, the cat perceiving that the Ogre had quitted the form of a lion, ventured to come down from the tiles, and owned that he had been a good deal frightened. "I have been further informed," continued the cat, "but I know not how to believe it, that you have the power of taking the form of the smallest animals also; for example, of changing yourself to a rat or a mouse: I confess I should think this must be impossible." "Impossible! You shall see;" and at the same instant he changed himself into a mouse, and began to frisk about the room. The cat no sooner cast his eyes upon the Ogre in this form, than he sprang upon him and devoured him in an instant

In the mean time the king, admiring, as he came near it, the magnificent castle of the ogre, ordered his attendants to drive up to the gates, as he wished to take a nearer view of it. The cat, hearing the noise of the carriage on the drawbridge, immediately came out, saying; "Your majesty is welcome to the castle of my lord marquis of Carabas." "And is this splendid castle your's also, my lord marquis of Carabas? I never saw any thing more stately than the building, or more beautiful than the park and pleasure grounds around it; no doubt the castle is no less magnificent within than without: pray, my lord marquis, indulge me with a sight of it."

The marquis gave his hand to the young princess as she alighted, and followed the king who went before:—they entered a spacious hall, where they found a splendid collation which the Ogre had prepared for some friends he had that day expected to visit him; but who, hearing that the king with the princess and a great gentleman of the court were within, had not dared to enter.

The king was so much charmed with the amiable qualities and noble fortune of the marquis of Carabas, and the young princess too had fallen so violently in love with him, that when the king had partaken of the collation, and drunk a few glasses of wine, he said to the marquis: "It will be your own fault, my lord marquis of Carabas, if you do not soon become my son-in-law." The marquis received the intelligence with a thousand respectful acknowledgments, accepted the honour conferred upon him, and married the princess that very day.

The cat became a great lord, and never after ran after rats and mice but for his amusement.

RIQUET WITH THE TUFT.

THERE was once upon a time a queen who had a little son; but he had a hunch upon his back, and was besides so hideously ugly, that it was for some time doubted if he had the form of a human creature.

A fairy, who happened to be present at the prince's birth, assured his parents, that notwithstanding his excessive ugliness, he would make himself agreeable to every one on account of his great wit and talents: she added, that this was not all; for that she had also bestowed upon him the power of endowing the person he should love best in the world, with the very same qualities.

All this was some consolation to the poor queen, who was dreadfully afflicted at the thought of having brought such a frightful little creature into the world.

Puss in Boots.

Riquet with the Tuft.

It is true, no sooner did he begin to talk, than he said the most charming things imaginable; and whatever he did was in so clever and agreeable a manner, that every body loved and admired him.

Seven years after the queen of a neighbouring kingdom was brought to bed of twin daughters: the one that was born first was more beautiful than the day; which caused the queen so very much joy, that it was thought by those about her that it would endanger her life.

The same fairy who was present at the birth of little Riquet with the Tuft, was with the queen in her confinement; and to remedy the inconvenience her too great joy had occasioned, she assured her that the new-born princess should have no understanding at all, but that she should be as silly and stupid as she was handsome.

This assurance grieved the queen very much: but in a few minutes she received a still greater disappointment; for the second princess, when born, was the ugliest little marmot ever beheld.

The fairy seeing the queen's distress, said to her: "I intreat your majesty, do not thus afflict yourself. Your daughter shall be endowed with so much wit, that nobody will perceive her want of beauty."

"This would be a great comfort to me, indeed," replied the queen: "but would it not be possible to bestow a small portion of the same charming advantage on the princess who is so beautiful?"

"This is not in my power," answered the fairy; "I cannot meddle with her understanding, but I can do all I please with respect to her beauty; and therefore, as there is nothing I would not do for your satisfaction, I will bestow on her, for a gift, that she shall be able to make the person she loves as handsome as she pleases."

As the two princesses grew up, their perfections grew also, and nothing was talked of but the beauty of the eldest, and the wit and talents of the youngest. It is true, their defects increased in the same degree,

for the youngest became every day more ugly, and the eldest more ignorant and stupid; she either did not reply at all to the questions that were asked of her, or spoke in the silliest manner possible. She was, too, so extremely awkward, that if she had to place half a dozen tea-cups on the chimney-piece, she was sure to break one of them; or if she attempted to drink a glass of water, she let half of it fall upon her clothes.

Though beauty is a great advantage to a young lady, yet the youngest of the princesses was by every one preferred to the eldest. It must be confessed, that people first approached the eldest to see and admire her, but they soon left her to hear the clever and agreeable conversation of her sister—so that in less than a quarter of an hour the eldest always found herself alone, while all strangers got as near as they could to the youngest.

The eldest, though very stupid, observed all this, and would willingly have parted with her beauty to gain but half the wit of her sister. The queen, notwithstanding her good nature, could not refrain from reproving her now and then for her stupidity; so that the poor princess was ready to die of grief.

One day, having retired to a neighbouring wood, where, without being seen, she might sit down and cry at her ease for the hard fate she was obliged to endure, she perceived a young man of small stature, and very ugly, coming near to her; he was at the same time magnificently dressed. This was the young prince Riquet with the Tuft, who having fallen violently in love with this princess from the portraits he had every where seen of her, had left his father's kingdom to have the pleasure of seeing and conversing with her.

Delighted at so unexpected an opportunity of meeting her alone, he addressed her with all imaginable respect. Observing, after the first compliments were over, that she appeared very melancholy, he said: "I cannot imagine, madam, how it is possible for a lady possessed of such beauty as your's to be so unhappy as you appear; for though I can boast of having seen

a great number of handsome ladies, I can assure you, none of them could in the smallest degree be compared to you."

"You are pleased to flatter me," replied the princess, without adding another word. "Beauty," continued Riquet with the Tuft, "is so great an advantage, that it supplies the place of every thing else; and she who is endowed with so great a blessing ought to be insensible to every kind of misfortune."

"I had much rather," said the princess, "be as ugly as you are, and possessed of wit, than have the beauty you praise, and be such a fool as I am."

"Nothing, madam," replied the prince, "is a surer mark of good sense than to believe ourselves in want of it; indeed, the more sensible we really are, the plainer we see how much we fall short of perfection."

"I know nothing of what you are talking of," answered the princess; "but I do know that I am very, very foolish, and that is the cause of the grief in which you see me."

"If this is all that makes you unhappy, madam," said the prince, "I can very easily put an end to your affliction."

"By what means?" replied the princess.

"I have the power," said Riquet with the Tuft, "to bestow as much wit as I please on the person I am to love best in the world; and as that person can be no other, madam, than yourself, it depends only on your own will to be the wittiest lady upon the earth. I shall ask of you in return but one condition, which is, that you shall consent to marry me."

The princess looked at him with astonishment, but did not speak a word.

"I see," continued Riquet, "that my proposal makes you uneasy, and I am not surprised at it; I will therefore give you a whole year to consider of your answer."

The princess was so very stupid and silly, and at the same time so much desired to be witty, that she resolved on accepting the offer made her by prince Riquet with the Tuft; she even thought a whole year

a very long time, and would gladly have made it shorter if she could.

She accordingly told the prince she would marry him on that day twelvemonth; and no sooner had she pronounced the words, than she found herself quite another creature: she said every thing she wished, not only with the greatest ease imaginable, but in the most natural and graceful manner. She immediately took her part in a lively and agreeable conversation with the prince, in which she showed herself so extremely witty, that Riquet began to fear he had bestowed upon her more of the charming quality she so much longed for than he had kept to himself.

When the Princess returned to the palace, the whole court was thrown into the utmost astonishment at the sudden and wonderful change they observed in her; for every thing she now uttered they found to be as clever and entertaining as it had before been stupid and ridiculous.

The joy at this event was the greatest ever known throughout the court: the youngest princess was the only person who did not partake of it: for as she had no longer the advantage of wit over the beauty of her sister, she could not but appear to every one the most ugly and disagreeable creature in the world.

The king now consulted his eldest daughter in the affairs of his government, and was even guided by her advice in matters of the greatest importance. And the news of this great change being every where talked of, it soon reached the ears of the neighbouring princes, who all hastened to present themselves at her father's palace, to gain, if possible, her favour, and demand her in marriage of the king.

But the princess listened with equal coldness and indifference to all they had to say: not one of them had wit enough to make her think for a moment of accepting his offer.

At length there came a prince, so powerful, so rich, so witty, and so handsome, that she could not help feeling a great affection for him. The king, perceiv

ing this, told her she had only to choose for a husband whom she liked best, and that she might be sure of his consenting to her marriage with him.

As the most sensible persons are always the most careful in determining on such serious matters, the princess, after thanking her father, begged him to allow her time to consider of what she should do.

Soon after, the princess chanced in her walk to wander towards the very wood in which she had met with Riquet with the Tuft; and wishing to be free from interruption while thinking of her new lover, she proceeded a good way into it.

When she had walked about for some time, she heard a great noise under ground, like that of many persons running backwards and forwards, and busily employed on some affair of importance. After listening for a moment, she distinguished different voices: one said, "Bring me that kettle:" another, "Fetch the great boiler:" another, "Put some coals on the fire." At the same moment the ground opened, and a spacious kitchen, filled with vast numbers of cooks, assistants, and scullions, together with all sorts of utensils fit for preparing a splendid dinner, appeared to the view of the astonished princess: some had rolling-pins, and were making the most delicate sorts of pastry; others were beating the syllabubs and turning the custards: and at one end of the kitchen she saw at least twenty men-cooks, all busily employed in trussing different sorts of the finest game and poultry imaginable, and singing all the time as merrily as could be.

The princess, in the utmost surprise at what she beheld, inquired of them, to whom they belonged?

"To prince Riquet with the Tuft, madam," replied the head cook, "whose wedding dinner we are preparing."

The princess, still more surprised than before, and instantly recollecting that this was exactly the day twelvemonth on which she had promised to marry Prince Riquet, was ready to sink on the ground. The reason of her not recollecting this before was, that

when she made the promise she was quite silly, and that the wit the prince had endowed her with, had made her forget every thing that had happened to her before.

She tried to walk away from the place, but had not gone twenty steps when Riquet with the Tuft presented himself before her, dressed magnificently in the gayest wedding suit that ever was seen.

"You perceive, madam," said he, "that I have kept my promise faithfully, and no doubt you have come hither for the same purpose, and, by bestowing on me your hand, to make me the happiest of men."

"I must frankly confess," replied the princess, that I am not yet come to a resolution on that subject, and also that I fear it will never be in my power to consent to what you desire."

"You quite astonish me, madam!" answered prince Riquet.

"That I can easily imagine," continued the princess: "and certainly I should be greatly perplexed what to say to you, if I did not know that you possess the best understanding in the world. Were you a silly prince, you would no doubt say to me: 'The promise of a princess should not be broken, and therefore you must marry me.' But you, prince Riquet, who have so much more sense than any other, will, I trust, excuse me for what I have declared.

"You cannot have forgotten that, when I was but a silly stupid princess, I could not be prevailed on to consent to marry you; how, therefore, now that I am endowed with understanding, and for that reason must naturally be the more difficult to be pleased, can you expect me to choose the prince I then rejected?

"If you really wished to marry me, you did very wrong to change me from the most silly creature in the world to the most witty, so as to make me see more plainly the faults of others.

"If, madam," replied Riquet with the Tuft, "you would think it but reasonable in a prince without sense to reproach you for what you have declared, why should you think proper to deny to me the same advantage,

in an affair in which the happiness of my whole life is concerned ? Is it just that persons of sense should be worse treated than those who have none ?

" You, my princess, who are now so very clever, and so much wished to be so, can you really determine to treat me in this manner ? But let us consider a little. Is there any thing in me besides my ugliness, that you dislike ? Are you dissatisfied with my birth, my understanding, my temper, manners, or condition ?"

" With none of these," replied the princess ; " I dislike in you only the ugliness of your person."

" If that is the case," answered Riquet, " I shall soon be the happiest man alive, since you, princess, have the power to make me as handsome as you please."

" How can that be possible ?" resumed the princess.

" Nothing more is necessary," said Riquet, " than that you should love me well enough to wish me very handsome : in short, my charming princess, I must inform you that the same fairy who at my birth bestowed upon me the gift of making the lady I love best, as witty as I pleased, was present also at your's, and gave to you the power of making him you should love the best, as handsome as you pleased."

" Since this is the case," said the princess, " I wish you with all my heart to be the handsomest prince in all the world, and as much as depends on me I bestow upon you the gift of beauty."

The princess had no sooner finished speaking, than Riquet with the Tuft appeared to her eyes the handsomest, best-shaped, and most agreeable person she had ever beheld.

Some people were of opinion that this surprising change in the prince was not occasioned by the gift of the fairy, but that the love the princess conceived for him was the only cause ; and they also added, that the princess thought so much of the perseverance of her lover, of his discretion, and the many excellent qualities of heart and mind he possessed, that she no longer perceived either the ugliness of his face, or the deformity of his person.

The hunch on his back now seemed to her to be nothing more than the easy carriage in which men of quality indulge themselves, and his lameness a care less freedom in his gait, which appeared extremely graceful; the squinting of his eyes, in those of the princess, did but make them seem more brilliant and more tender: in short, his thick red nose, in her opinion, gave a warlike and heroic air to his whole face.

However this may be, the princess promised to marry prince Riquet with the Tuft immediately, provided he could obtain the consent of the king her father.

The king being informed that his daughter entertained a great esteem for prince Riquet with the Tuft, and having heard of the extraordinary qualities of both his heart and mind, received him with pleasure for a son-in-law; so that the following day, as the prince had long expected, proved to be that of his union with the beautiful and no less witty princess.

HOP O' MY THUMB.

There once lived in a village a faggot-maker and his wife, who had seven children, all boys; the eldest was no more than ten years old, and the youngest was only seven. It was, to be sure, surprising enough that they should have had so many children in so short a time; but the truth is, his wife generally brought him two at a time.

It must be supposed they were extremely poor, for not one of these boys was old enough to get a livelihood; but what was still worse, the youngest was of a puny nature, and scarcely ever spoke a word; so that his parents, mistaking what was really a mark of good sense for a proof of folly, believed he would be quite a fool.

This boy was of the smallest size ever seen, and when born was no larger than a thumb, which made

him be christened by the name of "Hop o' my Thumb." The poor child was the drudge of the whole house, and always bore the blame whatever happened.

For all this, Hop o' my Thumb was by far more clever and expert than any of his brothers, and though he spoke but little, he heard more than was imagined.

It happened just at this time that, for want of rain, the fields had produced but half the proper quantity of corn and potatoes, so that the faggot-maker and his wife could no longer give the boys their usual food, which was generally either bread or potatoes.

After grieving for some time for the miserable condition in which they found themselves, they resolved, since they could think of no other remedy, to get rid of their children.

One evening when the children were in bed, and the faggot-maker and his wife were sitting over a few lighted sticks to warm themselves, the husband, sighing deeply, said: "You see, dear wife, it is impossible for us to maintain our children any longer, and to see them die of hunger before my eyes is what I never could support. I am therefore determined to take them to-morrow morning to the forest, and leave them in the thickest part of it, so that it will be impossible to find their way back; this will be easy enough; for, while they amuse themselves with tying up the faggots, we have only to slip away when they will be looking another way."

"Ah! husband," cried the poor wife, "you cannot, no, you never can, consent to be the death of you own children!"

The husband in vain desired her to recollect how very poor they were. This, to be sure, the wife replied, was true: but, if she was poor, she was their mother; and then she cried as if her heart would break. At length, considering how dreadful it would be to see them die of hunger before her eyes, she consented to her husband's proposal, and went sobbing to bed.

Hop o' my Thumb had been all the time awake;

and hearing his father talk more earnestly than usual, he slipped away from his brothers' side, and crept under his father's bed to hear all he might say, without being seen.

When his father and mother had left off talking, he got back to his own place, and passed the night in thinking what he should do the next morning. He rose early and ran to the river's side, where he filled his pockets with small white pebbles, and then returned home.

They all set out, as their father and mother had agreed on, and Hop o' my Thumb said not a word to his brothers of what he had discovered. They reached a forest that was so very thick, that at ten paces distant they could not see each other. The faggot-maker set to work, cutting down wood, and the children began to gather all the twigs, to make faggots of them.

The father and mother, observing that they were all very busy, slipped away without being perceived by them, and getting into a by-path, they soon lost sight of the forest.

In a short time the children, finding themselves alone, began to cry as loud as they could. Hop o' my Thumb let them cry on; for he knew well enough how to conduct them safely home, having taken care to drop the white pebbles he had in his pocket the whole of the way by which they had come: he therefore only said to them, "Never mind it, my lads: father and mother have left us here by ourselves; but only take care to follow me, and I will lead you back again."

They accordingly left off crying, and followed Hop o' my Thumb, who soon brought them to their father's house, by the very same path by which they had come. At first they had not the courage to go in, but stood listening at the door to hear what their parents were talking of.

Just as the faggot-maker and his wife had returned home without their children, a great gentleman of the village had sent to pay them two guineas, which had

so long been owing for work they had done for him, that they never expected to receive a farthing of it; this money quite rejoiced their hearts; for the poor creatures were exceedingly hungry, and had no means of getting any thing to eat.

The faggot-maker sent his wife out immediately to buy some meat; and as it was a long time since she had made a hearty meal, she bought as much meat as would have been enough for six or eight persons: but it might be that she had not yet learned to leave out her children, when she was thinking of what would be enough for dinner: indeed, she and her husband had no sooner eaten heartily, than she cried out: "Alas! where are our poor children? How they would feast on what we have left. It was all your fault, Richard! I told you over and over that we should repent the hour when we left them to starve in the forest! Oh, mercy! they may perhaps be already eaten up by the wolves! Richard! Richard! I told you how it would be!"

The faggot-maker at length grew very angry with his wife, who repeated more than twenty times, that he would repent of what he had done, and that she had again and again told him so: he at last threatened to give her a good beating if she did not hold her tongue: not but that the faggot-maker was quite as sorry as his wife for what had happened, but that her scolding teased him, and, like other husbands, he liked his wife to be in reality always in the right, but not to talk of being so.

The poor woman shed abundance of tears: Alas! alas!" repeated she, "what is become of my dear children?" and once she said this so loud that the children, who were all listening at the door, cried out all together: "Here we are, mother, here we are!" She flew like lightning to let them in, and kissed every one of them. "How glad I am to see you, you little rogues!" said she; "are you not tired and hungry? Ah, poor little Bobby! why, thou art dirt all over, my child! come hither, and let me wash thy face."

Bobby was the youngest of the boys excepting Hop

o my Thumb; and as he had red hair, like his mother, he had always been her favourite. The children sat down to dinner, and ate quite heartily, to the great joy of their parents, to whom they gave an account, speaking all together, so that they could hardly be understood, how much they were frightened when they found themselves alone in the forest.

The kind-hearted parents were quite delighted at having their children once again under their roof, and this continued till their money was all spent: then, finding themselves in the very same condition as before, they, by degrees, again determined to leave them once more in the forest; and that they might not a second time be disappointed, they resolved to lead them to a much greater distance than they did at first. They could not, however, consult with each other on this business so secretly but that Hop o' my Thumb found means to overhear all that passed; but it gave him no uneasiness, for he thought nothing could be easier than to do exactly the same as he had done before: but though he rose very early to go to the river's side and get the pebbles, a difficulty he did not expect fell in his way; which was, that the house door was double locked.

Hop o' my Thumb was now quite at a loss what step to take; but soon after, his mother having given to each of the children a piece of bread for breakfast, the thought came into his head, that he could make his share serve the same purpose as the pebbles, by dropping it all the way as they went. He accordingly put it carefully into his pocket.

It was not long before they all set out, and their parents took care to lead them into the very thickest and darkest part of the forest, and then slipped away by a by-path as before.

All this did not give Hop o' my Thumb any concern, for he thought himself quite sure of getting back by means of the crumbs he had strewed by the way; but what was his surprise at finding that not a single morsel was left! for the birds had eaten it all up.

The poor children were now in a terrible plight; for the further they went, the more they found it difficult to get out of the forest. At length night came on, and they mistook the whistling of the wind among the trees for the nowling of wolves, and every moment expected to be devoured by them. Scarcely dared they to speak a word, or move a limb, for fear; and soon after came a heavy rain, which wetted them to the very skin, and made the ground so slippery that they fell down almost at every step, and got dirty all over; the little ones calling out to their elder brothers, to get the mud off their hands.

When it began to grow light, Hop o' my Thumb climbed to the top of a tree, and looked about on all sides, to discover, if possible, some means of assistance: he saw a small light like that of a candle, but it was at a great distance beyond the forest: he came down from the tree, thinking to find his way to it, but it had disappeared; and he was in the utmost perplexity imaginable what to do next.

They continued walking towards the place in which he had seen the light, and at last, having reached the end of the forest, again got sight of it. They now quickened their steps, and after great fatigue and vexation (for every time they got into a bottom the light again disappeared) they arrived at the house in which it was.

They knocked at the door, which was opened by a very good-natured-looking lady, who asked what brought them thither? Hop o' my Thumb answered, that they were poor children, who had lost their way in the forest, and begged for charity's sake that she would give them a bed till morning.

The lady, seeing they had such pretty faces, began to shed tears, and said: "Ah! poor children, whither are you come? Do you not know that this is the house of an Ogre who eats little boys and girls?"

"Alas! madam," replied Hop o' my Thumb, who, as well his brothers, trembled from head to foot, "what shall we do? If we go back to the forest, it

is certain that we shall be devoured by the wolves; we had rather, therefore, be eaten up by the gentleman: besides, when he sees us, he may perhaps pity our unhappy condition, and spare our lives."

The Ogre's wife thinking she could contrive to hide them from her husband till the morning, let them go in, and made them warm themselves by a good fire, before which there was a whole sheep roasting for the Ogre's supper.

When they had stood a short time by the fire, there came a loud knocking at the door: this was the Ogre. His wife hurried the children under the bed, telling them to lie still: she then let her husband in.

The Ogre immediately asked if the supper was ready, and if the wine was fetched from the cellar, and then sat down at table. The sheep was still all bloody, but he liked it so much the better.

Presently the Ogre began to snuff to his right and left, saying he smelled child's flesh. "It must be this calf which has just been killed," answered his wife. "I smell child's flesh, I tell thee once more," cried the Ogre, looking all about the room; "I smell child's flesh; there is something going on that I do not understand."

Saying these words, he rose from his chair and went straight to the bed. "Ah! ah! deceitful creature, is it thus you think to cheat me? Wretch! but that thou art old and tough, I would eat thee too! But, come, come, what thou hast done is lucky enough, for the brats will make a nice dish for three Ogres, my particular friends, who are to dine with me to-morrow."

He drew them out one by one from under the bed. The poor children fell on their knees, begging his pardon as well as they could speak; but this Ogre was one of the cruellest of all the Ogres, and, far from feeling any pity, began to devour them already with his eyes, and told his wife "they would be delicious morsels if she served them up with a savoury sauce." He then fetched a large knife, and began to sharpen

it on a long whetstone which he held in his left hand, approaching all the time nearer and nearer to the bed.

The Ogre took up one of the children, and was going to set about cutting him to pieces, when his wife said to him, "What in the world makes you take the trouble of killing them to-night? will it not be time enough to-morrow morning?"

"Hold your prating," replied the Ogre, "they will be the tenderer for keeping."

"But you have so much meat in the house already," answered his wife: "here is a calf, two sheep, and half of a pig."

"Right," said the Ogre, "Give them therefore a good supper, that they may not lose their plumpness, and send them to bed."

The good creature was quite overjoyed at this, and accordingly gave them a plentiful supper: but the poor children were too much frightened to eat a bit.

As to the Ogre, he sat down to his wine extremely delighted with the thought of giving his friends so delicate a repast, and, drinking more than usual, found himself soon obliged to go to bed.

The Ogre had seven daughters, all very young. These young Ogresses had fair complexions, because they fed on raw meat like their father; but they had small gray eyes, quite round, and sunk in their heads, hooked noses, wide mouths, and very long sharp teeth standing at a great distance from each other. They were yet too young to have done a great deal of mischief: but they gave signs of being, when older, as cruel as their father; for they already delighted in biting young children, and sucking their blood.

These Ogresses had been put to bed at an early hour: they were all in one bed, which was very large, and each had a crown of gold on her head. There was in the same chamber another bed of equal size, and in this the Ogre's wife put the seven little boys, and then went to sleep with her husband.

Hop o' my Thumb, having observed that the Ogresses had all crowns of gold upon their heads, and fearing

the Ogre might awake in the night and repent of not having killed him and his brothers, got out of bed about midnight, as softly as he could, and, taking off their nightcaps and his own, crept with them to the Ogre's daughters, took off their crowns, and put the nightcaps on their heads instead of them; he then put the crowns on those of his brothers and his own, and again got into bed, that the Ogre, should he come, might mistake him and his brothers for his own children.

Every thing succeeded vastly well. The Ogre, having waked soon after midnight, was very sorry he had deferred till to-morrow what he could have done that very night. He therefore hurried out of bed, and, taking up his large knife, "Let us see," said he, "what the young rogues are about, and do the job at once!" He stalked quietly to the room in which his daughters slept, and going up to the bed which held the boys, who, excepting Hop o' my Thumb, were all asleep, he felt their heads one by one.

The Ogre feeling the crowns of gold, said to himself: "I had like to have made a pretty mistake, truly! I must surely have drunk too much wine last night!" He went next to the bed which held his daughters, and feeling the nightcaps: "Ah here you are my lads!" said he: and instantly cut the throats of all his daughters, one by one.

Being well satisfied with what he had done, he returned to his wife's bed.

As soon as Hop o' my Thumb heard him snoring he awoke his brothers, and told them to put on their clothes quickly, and follow him. They stole down softly to the garden, and then jumped from the walls into the road; they ran with all their strength the whole night, but were all the time so much terrified that they scarcely knew which way to take.

When the Ogre awoke in the morning, he said to his wife: "Prythee go and dress the young rogues I saw last night." The Ogress was quite surprised at her husband's kindness to them, not dreaming of the real meaning of his words; and supposing he wished

her to help them on with their clothes, she went up stairs, and the first thing she beheld was her seven daughters with their throats cut, and bathed in blood. The Ogre, fearing his wife might spend too much time in what he had set her about, went himself to help her, and was not less surprised than she had been at the shocking spectacle of his bleeding children. "Ah! what have I done?" cried he · "but the little varlets shall pay for it, I warrant them."

He threw some water on his wife's face; and as soon as she recovered he said to her, "Bring me quickly my seven-league boots, that I may go and catch the little vipers." The Ogre booted himself, and set out with all speed, and after striding over different parts of the country, at last turned into the very road in which the poor children were continuing their journey towards their father's house, which they had now nearly reached.

They had seen the Ogre for some time striding from mountain to mountain at one step, and crossing rivers with the greatest ease. Hop o' my Thumb, after considering what was to be done, perceiving a hollow place under a large rock, made his brothers get into it, and then stepped in himself, keeping his eye constantly fixed on the Ogre, to see what he would do next.

The Ogre, finding himself greatly tired with the journey he had made, for seven-league boots are very fatiguing to the person who wears them, now began to think of resting himself, and happened to sit down on the very rock in which the poor children lay concealed: being quite overcome with fatigue, he fell fast asleep, and soon began to snore terribly, that the little fellows were no less frightened than when the Ogre stood over them with a knife in his hand, intending to cut their throats.

Hop o' my Thumb, seeing how much his brothers were terrified, said to them: "Courage, my lads! never fear! You have nothing to do but to steal away and get home while the Ogre is fast asleep, and leave me to shift for myself."

The brothers followed this advice, and were very soon at their father's house. In the mean time, Hop o' my Thumb went softly up to the Ogre, and very gently pulled off his seven-league boots, and immediately drew them on his own legs; for though the boots were very large, as they were fairies, they could make themselves smaller and smaller, so as to fit any leg they pleased.

Hop o' my Thumb had no sooner made sure of Ogre's seven-league boots, than he determined to go directly to the palace, and offer his services to carry orders from the king to his army, which was at a great distance, and bring his majesty the earliest accounts of the battle they were just at that time engaged in with the enemy. In short, he even thought he could be of more use to the king than all his telegraphs, and expected to make his fortune.

But he had not proceeded many strides before he heard a voice which desired him to stop. Hop o' my Thumb, a good deal surprised, looked about him to discover from whence it came, and immediately the same voice continued: "Listen, Hop o' my Thumb, to what I am about to say to you. Go not to the palace. Waste no time; the Ogre sleeps; he may awake.

"Know, Hop o' my Thumb, that the boots you took from the Ogre while asleep are two fairies; I am the eldest of them. We have observed the clever feats you have performed to keep your brothers from harm, and have resolved to bestow upon you the gift of riches, if you will once more employ your wits to a good purpose, and be as brave as before. But fairies are not allowed to speak such matters as these: break the shell of the largest nut you can find in your pocket, and in it is a paper which will tell you all that is necessary to be done."

Hop o' my Thumb, instead of standing still wondering what had happened, instantly searched his pocket for the nut, and, having cracked it with his

teeth, found in it a piece of paper neatly folded up, which he immediately opened, and read as follows:

> Hie thee to the Ogre's door,
> These words speak, and no word more:
> Ogress, Ogre cannot come;
> Great key give to Hop o' my Thumb.

Hop o' my Thumb instantly began to say the two last lines over and over again, that he might not forget them; and when he thought he had learned them by heart, he made two or three of his largest strides, and soon reached the Ogre's door.

He knocked loudly, and for the second time was received by the Ogre's wife, who at sight of Hop o' my Thumb started back, and looked as if she would have shut the door against him; but Hop o' my Thumb, knowing he had not a moment to lose, made as if he did not perceive how much she was afflicted at seeing the person who had caused her daughters to be killed by their own father.

Hop o' my Thumb accordingly began to talk as if he was in a great hurry, saying that matters were now changed; that the Ogre, having laid hold of him and his brothers as they were gathering nuts by the side of a hedge, was going to take them back to his house; when all at once the Ogre perceived a number of men, who looked like lords, and were on the finest horses ever beheld, coming up to him full speed; that he soon found they were sent by the king with a message to borrow of the Ogre a large sum of money which he stood in need of to pay his army, the king believing him to be the richest of his subjects: (this Hop o my Thumb said, on purpose to find out how rich the Ogre really was:) that the lords finding themselves excessively fatigued with the long journey they had made, the Ogre, with the utmost civility, had desired them to proceed no farther, as he had with him a messenger who would not fail of doing cleverly whatever he was employed about: that the great lords had thanked the Ogre a thousand times, and, in the name of the king, had bestowed upon him the honourable title of

Duke of Draggletail: that the Ogre had then taken off his boots, and helped to draw them on Hop o' my Thumb's legs; and charging him to make haste, gave him the following message:

> Ogress, Ogre cannot come;
> Great key give to Hop o' my Thumb.

The Ogress seeing her husband's boots, and being mightily delighted with the thoughts of becoming duchess of Draggletail, and living at court, was very ready to believe all that was told her: indeed, so great was her joy, that she quite forgot her seven daughters with their throats cut and bathed in blood.

She fetched the great key very briskly and gave it to Hop o' my Thumb, telling him, at the same time, where to find the chest of money and jewels to which it belonged. Hop o' my Thumb took as much of these treasures as he thought would be sufficient to maintain his father, mother, and brothers, without the fatigue of hard labour, saying to himself all the time, that it was better that an honest faggot-maker should have a small part of such vast riches, than that an Ogre, who did nothing but eat children, should make no use of them whatever.

In a short time Hop o' my Thumb returned to his father's house, and was joyfully received by the whole family. The fame of his boots having been talked of at court, the king sent for him, and, it is said, employed him frequently on the most important affairs of his kingdom; so that he became one of the richest of his subjects.

As for the Ogre, he fell in his sleep from the corner of the rock, from which Hop o' my Thumb and his brothers had escaped, to the ground, and bruised himself so much from head to foot that he could not stir; he therefore stretched himself out at full length, and waited for some one to come by and assist him.

But though several faggot-makers passed near the place where the Ogre lay, and hearing him groan, went up to ask him what was the matter, yet the Ogre, owing to the great number of children he had eaten,

Hop-o'my-Thumb.

Beauty and the Beast.

was so excessively big, that they could not have carried even one of his legs; so they were obliged to leave him; till at length the night came on, when a large serpent came out of a neighbouring wood, and stung him so terribly that he died miserably.

As soon as Hop o' my Thumb, who was become the king's favourite, heard the news of the Ogre's death, he informed his majesty of all that the good-natured Ogress had done to save the lives of him and his brothers. The king was so pleased at what he heard, that he asked Hop o' my Thumb, if there was any favour he could bestow upon her?

Hop o' my Thumb thanked the king, and desired that the Ogress might obtain the honourable title of Duchess of Draggletail; which was no sooner asked than granted.

The Ogress came to court and lived very happy for many years, enjoying the vast fortune she found in the Ogre's coffers.

As for Hop o' my Thumb, he every day grew more witty and brave; till at last the king made him the greatest lord in the kingdom, and put all his affairs under his direction.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST.

THERE was once a merchant who was extremely rich: he had six children, three boys and three girls: as he had also an excellent understanding, he spared no expense for their education, but provided them with all sorts of masters for their improvement. The three daughters were all handsome, but particularly the youngest; so very beautiful indeed was she, that every one, during her childhood, called her The Little Beauty; and being still the same when she was grown up, nobody called her by any other name; which made her sisters extremely jealous.

This youngest daughter was not only handsomer than her sisters, but was better tempered also; the

two eldest were extremely proud of being rich, and spoke to their inferiors with the greatest haughtiness: they gave themselves the most disdainful airs, and refused to visit other merchants' daughters; nor would they indeed be seen with any but persons of the highest quality. They went every day to balls, plays, and public walks, and constantly jeered their youngest sister for spending her time in reading, or other useful employments.

As it was well known that these young ladies would have large fortunes, many considerable merchants demanded them in marriage; but the two eldest always answered, that they could assure them they had no thoughts of marrying any one below a duke, or an earl at least. As for Beauty, who had quite as many offers as her sisters, she always answered with the greatest civility, that she was much obliged to her lovers, but preferred living for some years longer with her father, as she thought herself too young to marry.

Owing to some unexpected accident, the merchant suddenly lost his whole fortune, having nothing left but a small cottage in the country. He said to his daughters, the tears all the time running down his cheeks, "My children, we must now go and live in the cottage, and try to get a subsistence by labour, for we have no other means of support left!" The two eldest replied, that for their part, they knew not how to work, and would not leave town; for they had lovers enough who would be glad to marry them, though they had no longer any fortune. But in this they were mistaken; for the lovers hearing what had happened, said: "they were so haughty and ill-humoured, that all we wanted was their fortune; we are by no means sorry to see their pride humbled; let them give themselves airs to their cows and sheep." But every one pitied Beauty, because she was so sweet-tempered and kind to every one; and several gentlemen offered to marry her, though she had not a penny; but Beauty still refused, saying, she could never think of abandoning her poor father in his mis-

fortunes, and would go with him and assist his labours in the country.

Beauty at first could not help sometimes crying in secret for the poverty she was now obliged to endure, but in a very short time she said to herself, "All the crying in the world will do me no good, so I will even try to be happy without a fortune."

When they had removed to their cottage, the merchant and his three sons employed themselves in tilling and sowing the fields, and working in the garden, that they might have both corn and vegetables for their support. Beauty on her part rose by four o'clock, lighted the fires, cleaned the house, and got the breakfast for the whole family. She at first found all this very fatiguing; but she soon grew quite accustomed to it, and thought the work of a servant no hardship at all, beside that the exercise greatly improved her health. When she had done her work, she generally amused herself with reading, playing on her harpsichord, or singing as she spun. The two eldest sisters, on the contrary, were at a loss what to do, to pass the time away; they breakfasted in bed, and did not rise till ten, when they commonly walked out, but finding themselves very soon fatigued, they would frequently sit down under a shady tree, and lament the loss of their carriage and fine clothes, and say to each other, "What a mean-spirited poor stupid creature is our youngest sister, to be so content with our miserable situation." But their father thought very differently: he admired the patience of this sweet young creature; for her sisters not only left to her the whole work of the house, but insulted her every moment.

The family had lived in this manner about a year, when the merchant received a letter, which informed him that one of his richest vessels, which he thought was lost, had just arrived in the port. This intelligence made the two sisters almost mad with joy; for, thought they, we shall now leave this dismal retirement, and return to our former splendour. When they found that this news made it necessary for their

father to take a journey to the ship, the two eldest daughters crowded near him, and begged he would not fail to bring them on his return some new gowns, caps, rings, and all sorts of trinkets. But Beauty asked for nothing; for she thought in herself that the ship's whole cargo would scarcely purchase all her sisters wished for.

"You, Beauty," said the merchant, "ask for nothing; what can I bring you, my child?" "Since you are so kind as to think of me, dear father," answered she, "I should be obliged to you to bring me a rose, for we have none in our garden." It was not that Beauty wished for a rose, but she was unwilling to condemn, by her example, the conduct of her sisters, who would have said she refused only to be praised. The merchant took his leave of them, and set out on his journey: but, on arriving at the port, some dishonest persons went to law with him about the merchandise; so after a great deal of trouble he returned to his cottage as poor as he had left it. When he was within thirty miles of his home, and thinking of the happiness he should enjoy in again embracing his children, his road lay through a thick forest, and he had the misfortune to lose himself. It rained and snowed terribly, and the wind was beside so high, as to throw him twice off his horse; and night being come, he fully imagined he should die of cold or hunger, or be torn to pieces by the wolves which howled in every direction around him. All at once, the merchant happening to look down a long avenue, he discovered a light, but it seemed at a great distance. He pursued his way towards it, and found it proceeded from a splendid palace illuminated all over. He quickened his pace, and soon arrived at the gates; which he opened, and was greatly surprised to find not a single creature in any of the outer yards. His horse, which followed him, finding a stable with the door open, entered without ceremony; and the poor creature, being nearly starved, helped himself to a plentiful meal of oats and hay. His master then tied

him up, and walked towards the house, which he entered, and, to his great astonishment, without seeing a living creature: he pursued his way to a large hall, in which was a good fire, and a table plentifully provided with the most delicate dishes, on which was laid a single cover.

As the snow and rain had wetted him to the skin, he approached the fire to dry himself: "I hope," says he, "the master of the house or his servants will excuse the liberty I take, for it surely will not be long before they make their appearance." He waited a considerable time, and still nobody came: at length the clock struck eleven; and the merchant, overcome with hunger and thirst, helped himself to a chicken, of which he made but two mouthfuls, and then to a few glasses of wine: all the time trembling with fear. He sat till the clock struck twelve, and not a creature had he seen. He now took courage, and began to think of looking a little farther about him: accordingly, he opened a door at the extremity of the hall, and entered an apartment magnificently furnished, which he found opened into another, in which there was an excellent bed; and finding himself quite overcome with fatigue, he resolved to shut the door, undress, and get into it.

It was ten o'clock the next morning before he thought of rising; when, what was his astonishment at seeing a handsome suit of clothes entirely new, in the place of his own, which were quite spoiled! "No doubt," said he to himself, "this palace belongs to some good fairy, who has taken pity on my unfortunate situation." He looked out of the window; and instead of snow, he saw the most delightful arbours embowered with all kinds of flowers. He returned to the hall where he had supped, and found a breakfast-table, with some chocolate ready prepared. "Truly, my good fairy," said the merchant aloud, "I am extremely indebted to your kind care of me;" and, having made a hearty breakfast, he took his hat, and was going toward the stable to pay his horse a visit.

As he passed under one of the arbours, which was loaded with roses, he suddenly recollected Beauty's request, and gathered a bunch of them to carry home.

At the same instant he heard a most horrible noise, and saw such a hideous Beast approaching him, that he was ready to sink with fear. "Ungrateful man!" said the Beast in a terrible voice: "I have saved your life by receiving you in my palace, and in return you steal my roses, which I value more than all my other possessions. But with your life you shall atone your fault: you shall die in a quarter of an hour!" The merchant fell on his knees to the Beast, and, clasping his hands, said, "My lord, I humbly intreat your pardon: I did not think it could offend you to gather a rose for one of my daughters, who desired to have one." "I am not a lord, but a Beast," replied the monster; "I do not like compliments, but that people should say what they think: so do not imagine you can move me by your flattery. You say, however, that you have daughters; I will therefore pardon you, on condition that one of them shall come hither and die in your place: do not attempt to argue with me, but go; and if your daughters should refuse, swear to me that you will return yourself in three months."

The tender-hearted merchant had no intention to let one of his daughters die in his stead; but he thought to himself, that, by seeming to accept the Beast's condition, he should at least have the satisfaction of once again embracing them. He accordingly swore; and the Beast told him he might then set off as soon as he pleased: "but," added he, "it is my will that you should not go empty-handed. Go back," continued he, "to the chamber in which you slept, where you will find an empty chest: fill it with whatever you like best, and I will get it conveyed to your own house." The Beast having said this, went away; and the good merchant said to himself, "If I must die, yet I shall have the consolation of leaving my children some provision."

He returned to the chamber in which he had slept;

and having found a great quantity of pieces of gold, he filled the chest with them to the very brim, locked it, and, mounting his horse, left the palace with no less grief than he had entered it with joy. The horse of itself took a path across the forest, and in a few hours they reached the merchant's house. His children gathered round him as he dismounted from his horse; but the merchant, instead of embracing them with joy, could not, as he looked at them, refrain from weeping. He held in his hand the bunch of roses, which he gave to Beauty, saying, "Take these roses, Beauty: but little do you think how dear they have cost your unhappy father;" and then gave an account of all that had happened in the palace of the Beast. The two eldest sisters immediately began to shed tears, and to reproach Beauty, who they said would be the cause of her father's death. "See," said they, "the consequence of the pride of the little wretch: why did she not ask for fine things as we did? But, forsooth, miss must distinguish herself; and though she will be the cause of her father's death, yet she does not shed a tear." "It would be useless," replied Beauty, "to weep for the death of my father, since he will not die. As the beast will accept of one of his daughters, I will give myself up to his fury; and most happy do I think myself in being able at once to save his life, and prove my tenderness to the best of fathers." "No, sister, said the three brothers, "you shall not die; we will go in search of this monster, and either he or we will perish." "Do not hope to kill him," said the merchant; for his power is by far too great for this to be possible. I am charmed with the kindness of Beauty, but I will not suffer her life to be exposed. I myself am old, and cannot expect to live much longer: I shall therefore have lost but a few years of my life, which I regret only for my children's sake." "Never, my father," cried Beauty, "shall you go to the palace without me: for you cannot prevent my following you: though young, I am not over-fond of life, and I had much rather

be devoured by the monster than die of the grief your loss would occasion me." The merchant in vain endeavoured to reason with Beauty, for she was determined to go; at which the eldest sisters, who were jealous of her amiable qualities, secretly rejoiced.

The merchant was so afflicted with the thoughts of losing his child, that he never once thought of the chest filled with gold; but retiring to his chamber at night, to his great surprise, he perceived it standing by his bed-side. He now determined to say nothing to his eldest daughters of the riches he possessed; for he knew very well they would immediately wish to return to town: but he told Beauty his secret, who informed him, that two gentlemen had been visiting at their cottage during his absence, who had a great affection for her two sisters. She therefore intreated her father to marry them without delay; for she was so sweet-tempered, that she loved them notwithstanding their unkind behaviour, which she forgave with all her heart.

When the three months were expired, the merchant and Beauty prepared to set out for the palace of the Beast; upon which occasion the two sisters rubbed their eyes with an onion, to make believe they shed a great many tears: but both the merchant and his sons shed them in reality: there was only Beauty who did not weep; for she thought this would only increase their affliction.

They reached the palace in a few hours: when the horse, without bidding, entered the same stable as before, and the merchant with his daughter proceeded to the large hall, where they found a table magnificently provided with every delicacy, and with two covers laid on it. The merchant had but little appetite; but Beauty, the better to conceal her sorrow, placed herself at table, and, having helped her father, began herself to eat, thinking all the time, that the Beast had surely a mind to fatten her before he ate her up, since he had provided such good cheer. When they had finished their supper, they heard a great

noise; and the good old man began to bid his poor child farewell, for he knew it was the Beast coming to them. Beauty, on seeing his hideous form, could not help being terrified, but she tried as much as possible to conceal her fear. The monster asked her if she had come willingly; she replied, trembling still more than before, "Y-e-s." "You are a good girl," replied he, "and I think myself much obliged to you. Good man," continued he, "you may leave the palace to-morrow morning, and take care to return to it no more. Good night, Beauty." "Good night, Beast,' answered she; and the monster then withdrew.

"Ah! dear child," said the merchant embracing his daughter, "I am half dead already, at the thoughts of your being sacrificed to this frightful monster: believe me, you had better go back, and let me stay in your place." "No," answered Beauty firmly, "to this I will never consent; you must go home to-morrow morning." They now wished each other a sorrowful good night, and went to bed, thinking it would be impossible for them to close their eyes; but no sooner had they lain down, than they fell into a profound sleep, from which they did not awake till morning. Beauty dreamt that a lady approached her, who said, "I am much pleased, Beauty, with the generous affection you have shown, in being willing to give your life to save that of your father, and it shall not go unrewarded." Beauty, as soon as she awoke, related this dream to her father; but though it afforded him some comfort, he could not take leave of his darling child without shedding the bitterest tears.

When the merchant was out of sight, Beauty sat down in the large hall and began to cry also; but as she had a great deal of courage, she soon resolved not to make her unhappy condition still worse by useless sorrow, and to wait with as much tranquillity as she could till the evening; when she supposed the beast would not fail to come and eat her. She determined on taking a view of the different parts of the palace, with the beauty of which she was much delighted.

But what was her surprise, at coming to a door on which was written '*Beauty's apartment!*' She opened it hastily, and her eyes could not behold, without being dazzled, the splendour of every thing it contained: but what more than all the rest excited her wonder, was a large library filled with books, a harpsichord, and different pieces of music. "The beast is determined I shall not want amusement," said she. The thought then struck her, that it was not likely such a provision would have been made for her, if she had but one day to live, and began to hope all would not end as she had imagined. She then opened the library, and perceived a book, on which was written, in letters of gold,

Beauteous lady, dry your tears,
Here's no cause for sighs or fears;
Command as freely as you may,
Compliance still shall mark your sway.

"Alas!" said she sighing, "there is nothing I so much desire as to see my poor father, and to know what he is this moment doing." This she said within herself; but how great was her amazement, when, casting her eyes on a looking-glass that stood near her, she saw her home, and her father riding up to the cottage in the deepest affliction. Her sisters had come out to meet him, who, notwithstanding all their endeavours to look sorry, could not help betraying their joy. In a short time all this disappeared; but Beauty began to think that the beast was very kind to her; and that she had nothing to fear from him.

About noon she found a table prepared for her, and a delightful concert of music played all the time she was eating her dinner, without her seeing a single creature. At supper, when she was going to place herself at table, she heard the noise of the Beast, and could not help trembling with terror. "Will you allow me, Beauty," said he, "the pleasure of seeing you sup?" "That is as you please," answered she, dreadfully frightened. "Not in the least," said the Beast; "and the Beast you alone command in this place. If you would dislike my company, you have only to say so, and I shall instantly leave you. But tell me,

Beauty, do you not think me very ugly?" "Truly, yes," replied she, "for I cannot tell a falsehood; but then I think you are very good." "You are right," continued the Beast; "and, besides my ugliness, I am also extremely ignorant; I know well enough that I am but a Beast." "You cannot, I should think, be ignorant," said Beauty, "if you yourself perceive this." "Pray do not let me interrupt your eating," pursued he: "and be sure you do not want for any thing, for all you see is your's, and I shall be extremely grieved if you are not happy." "You are very good," replied Beauty: "I must needs confess that I think very highly of your disposition; and then I almost forget your ugliness." "Yes, yes, I trust I am good-tempered," said he, "but still I am a monster." "There are many men who are more monsters than you," replied Beauty; "and I am better pleased with you in that form, ugly as it is, than with those who, under the form of a man, conceal the most wicked hearts." "If I had any understanding," resumed the Beast, "I would thank you for what you have said; but I am too stupid to say any thing that could give you pleasure."

Beauty supped with an excellent appetite, and had nearly got the better of her dread of the monster! but she was ready to sink with horror, when he said to her: "Beauty, will you be my wife?" She remained for a few moments without answering; for she was afraid of putting him in a passion, by refusing. At length she answered, "No, Beast." The Beast made no reply, but sighed deeply, and made so loud a hissing, that the whole palace echoed with the sounds; but Beauty was soon relieved of her alarm, for the Beast said, in a melancholy tone, "Adieu, Beauty!" and left her, turning his head two or three times as he went, to look at her once more. Beauty finding herself alone, began to feel the greatest compassion for the poor Beast. "Alas!" said she, "what a pity it is he should be so very frightful, since he is so good-tempered!"

Beauty lived three months in this palace, very contentedly: the Beast visited her every evening, and entertained her with his conversation while she supped. and though what he said was not very clever, yet perceiving in him every day new virtues, instead of dreading the time of his coming, she was continually looking at her watch, to see if it was almost nine o'clock; at which time he never failed to visit her. There was but one thing that made her uneasy; which was, that the Beast, before he retired, constantly asked her if she would be his wife, and appeared extremely sorrowful at her refusals. Beauty one day said to him, "You distress me exceedingly, Beast, in obliging me to refuse you so often: I wish I could prevail on myself to marry you, but I am too sincere to flatter you that this will ever happen: I shall always be your friend; try to be satisfied." "That I must needs do," replied the Beast, "since I know well enough how very horrible I am; but I love you exceedingly: however, I think myself very fortunate in your being pleased to stay with me: promise me, Beauty, that you will never leave me." Beauty was quite confused when he said this, for she had seen in her glass that her father had fallen sick of grief for her absence, and pined to see her. "I would willingly promise you," said she, "never to leave you entirely; but I have such a longing desire to see my father, that if you refuse me this pleasure I shall die of grief."

"Rather would I die myself, Beauty," replied he, "than cause you affliction. I will send you to your father's cottage; you shall stay there, and your poor Beast shall die of grief." "No," said Beauty, weeping, "I love you too well to be the cause of your death: I promise to return in a week; you have shown me that my sisters are married, and my brothers are gone to the army; my father is therefore all alone. Allow me to pass one week with him." "You shall find yourself with him to-morrow morning," answered the Beast; "but remember your promise. When you wish to return you have only to put your ring on a

table when you go to bed. Adieu, Beauty!" The Beast, as usual, sighed as he pronounced those words, and Beauty went to bed extremely affected to see him so distressed. When she awoke in the morning, she found herself in her father's cottage; and ringing a bell that was at her bed-side, a servant entered, and on seeing her, gave a loud shriek; upon which the merchant ran up stairs, and, on beholding his daughter, was ready to die of joy. They embraced again and again: at length, Beauty began to recollect that she had no clothes to put on: but the servant told her she had just found in the next room a large chest filled with apparel, embroidered all over with gold, and ornamented with pearls and diamonds.

Beauty thanked the kind Beast for his attention, and dressed herself in the plainest of the gowns, telling the servant to put away the others very carefully, for she intended to present them to her sisters: but scarcely had she pronounced these words than the chest disappeared. Her father then observed, that no doubt the Beast intended she should keep the whole for herself; and immediately the chest returned to the same place. While Beauty was dressing herself, notice was sent to her sisters of her arrival, who lost no time in coming with their husbands to pay her a visit. They both lived very unhappy with the gentlemen they had married. The husband of the eldest was extremely handsome: but so very vain of his person, that he thought of nothing else from morning till night, and wholly disregarded the beauty of his wife. The second had married a man of excellent understanding: but he made no other use of it than to torment and affront all his acquaintance, and his wife still more than any one. The two sisters were ready to burst with envy when they saw their younger sister dressed like a princess, and look so very beautiful: not all the kindness she showed them produced the least effect; for their jealousy was still increased, when she told them how happily she lived at the palace of the Beast. The envious creatures went secretly into the garden,

where they cried with spite, to think of her good fortune. "Why should the little viper be better off than us?" said they. "We are surely much handsomer than she." "Sister," said the eldest, "a thought has just come into my head: let us try to keep her here beyond the week allowed her by the Beast; who will then be so enraged, that ten to one but he eats her up in a moment." "Well thought of," replied her sister: "to this end we must seem extremely kind to her." Having determined on this, they joined her in the cottage, and showed her so much affection, that Beauty could not help crying for joy.

When the week was ended, the two sisters began to tear their hair, and counterfeited so much affliction at the thoughts of her leaving them, that she consented to stay another week; during which Beauty could not help constantly reproaching herself for the unhappiness she knew she must occasion her poor Beast, whom she tenderly loved, and for whose company she much wished. The tenth night of her being at the cottage, she dreamed she was in the garden of the palace, and that the Beast lay expiring on a grass plot, and in a dying voice reproached her with ingratitude. Beauty awaked in the greatest agitation, and burst into tears. "Am I not very wicked," said she, "to act so unkindly to a Beast who has treated me with so much kindness? It is not his fault that he is so ugly and so stupid: and then he is so good! which is far better than all the rest. Why do I refuse to marry him? I should certainly be happier with him than my sisters with their husbands: for it is neither the person nor understanding of a husband that makes his wife happy, but kindness, virtue, and an obliging temper; and all these the Beast possesses in perfection. I do not love him, but I feel for him the sincerest friendship, esteem, and gratitude. I am resolved he shall not be unhappy on my account; for I should do nothing but reproach myself the rest of my days."

She immediately rose, put her ring on the table

and got into bed again, and soon fell asleep. In the morning she with joy found herself in the palace of the Beast. She dressed herself with great magnificence, that she might please him the better, and thought she had never passed so long a day. At length the clock struck nine, but no Beast appeared. Beauty then imagined she had been the cause of his death. She ran from room to room all over the palace, calling in the utmost despair upon his name; but still no Beast came. After seeking him for a long time, she recollected her dream, and instantly ran towards the grass plot on which she had seen him; and there she found the poor Beast extended senseless, and to all appearance dead. She threw herself upon his body, thinking nothing at all of his ugliness, and finding his heart still beat, she ran hastily and fetched some water from a canal a little way off, and threw it on his face. The Beast opened his eyes, and said: "You have forgot your promise, Beauty. My grief for the loss of you has made me resolved to starve myself to death; but at least I shall die content, since I have had the pleasure of seeing you once more."

"No, dear Beast," replied Beauty, "you shall not die; you shall live to become my husband: from this very moment I offer you my hand, and swear to be only your's. Alas! I thought I felt only friendship for you; but the pain I feel, convinces me that I could not live without seeing you."

Scarcely had Beauty pronounced these words, before the palace was suddenly illuminated, and music, fire-works, and all kinds of amusement, announced the most splendid rejoicings. All this, however, had no effect on Beauty, who watched over her dear Beast with the most tender anxiety. But what was her amazement, to see all at once at her feet the handsomest prince that was ever seen, who thanked her with the utmost tenderness for having broken his enchantment! Though this handsome prince was deserving of her whole attention, she could not refrain from asking him what was become of the Beast. "You see him, Beauty, at your feet,"

answered the prince. "A wicked fairy had condemned me to keep the form of a beast till a beautiful young lady should consent to marry me, and had forbidden me on pain of death to show that I had any understanding. You alone, dearest Beauty, have had the generosity to judge of me by the goodness of my heart; and, in offering you my crown, the recompense falls infinitely short of what I owe you."

Beauty, in the most pleasing surprise, assisted the handsome prince to rise, and they proceeded together to the palace; when her astonishment was very great, to find there her father and all her family, who had been conveyed thither by the beautiful lady she saw in her dream. "Beauty," said the lady (for she was a great fairy,) "receive the reward of the virtuous choice you have made. You have preferred goodness of heart to sense and beauty: you therefore deserve to find these qualities united in the same person. You are going to be a great queen: I hope a crown will not destroy your virtue. As for you, ladies," said the fairy to the eldest sisters, "I have long been witness to the malice of your hearts, and the injustice you have committed. You shall become two statues; but under that form you shall preserve your reason as before, and shall be fixed at the gates of your sister's palace; nor will I inflict on you any greater punishment than that of witnessing her happiness. You will never recover your natural forms till you are fully sensible of your faults; and to say the truth, I much fear you will ever remain statues. I have sometimes seen that pride, anger, and idleness, may be conquered; but to amend a malignant and envious temper would be absolutely a miracle."

At the same instant the fairy, with a stroke of her wand, transported all who were present to the young prince's dominions, where he was received with transports of joy by his subjects. He married Beauty, and passed with her a long and happy life, because their actions were founded upon virtue.

FORTUNIO.

There was once a king named Alfourite, who was both amiable and powerful; but his neighbour, the emperor Matapa, was still more powerful, and in the last battle they fought against each other, had gained a complete victory, leaving the king despoiled of all his treasures: these the emperor conveyed to his own palace, where he was received on his return by the empress with great rejoicings.

In the mean time, king Alfourite was in the greatest affliction for the injury he had sustained, and began to think of making some endeavours to regain what he had lost. He accordingly assembled the small remains of his army, and, to increase its numbers, published a decree, that every gentleman and nobleman in his kingdom, must come in person, to assist him in his enterprize, or, in case of failure, to pay a large sum of money.

On the frontiers of his kingdom there lived a nobleman who was eighty years of age: he had once been extremely rich, but through misfortunes was now reduced to a scanty provision for himself and three daughters, who lived with him in a happy and contented retirement. When this old nobleman heard of the king's decree, he called his daughters to him, telling them he knew not what to do: for," says he, "I am too old to engage in the king's army, and to pay the tax, would ruin us at once."

"Do not thus afflict yourself, my father," said his daughters: "some remedy may surely be thought of." "I," said the eldest, "am young and robust, and we accustomed to fatigue: why should not I dress myself like a cavalier, and offer my services to king Alfourite?" The old lord embraced her tenderly, and, seeing her earnestly bent on the experiment, gave his consent; and as soon as the necessary preparations could be made, she set out.

The princess had not proceeded far, before she ob-

served an old shepherdess, all in tears, endeavour to draw one of her sheep out of the ditch, into which it had fallen. "What are you doing, Goody?" said the cavalier. "Alas!" replied she, "I am trying to save my sheep, which is almost drowned; but I am too weak to get it out." "You are very unfortunate truly," answered he, at the same time spurring his horse to ride away. "Adieu, disguised lady!" said the old shepherdess. No astonishment could exceed that of the earl's daughter on finding herself discovered. "If this is the case," says he, "I had better return at once, since a single glance at me, is sufficient to convince every one that I am not a man."

She accordingly returned, and related the whole to her father and sisters. The second daughter then said: "It would not have been thus, if I had gone instead of you, for I am both taller and more robust, and I would lay any wager I should have succeeded." The old lord, on her intreaty, was prevailed on to let his second daughter go on the same errand, who immediately procured a suit of clothes and another horse, and took the road her sister had done before. The old shepherdess was on the same spot, and still engaged in the occupation of drawing out a sheep that was drowning. Our young traveller asked what was the matter. "Unfortunate that I am," replied the old woman, "half my flock have I lost in this manner for want of help." "Some one will soon come by, no doubt," said the cavalier; and was turning his horse to go, when the old woman cried out: "Adieu, disguised lady!" In utter amazement she stopped her horse, saying to herself: "I shall only be laughed at, should I proceed, since even a poor old shepherdess, almost blind, discovers me without the smallest difficulty." She therefore following her sister's example, and returned to her father full of sorrow and disappointment.

When she had related her adventure, the youngest sister, who on account of her amiable disposition was her father's favourite, intreated she might not be de-

nied the privilege of trying her fortune as well as her sisters; which, at last, after much persuasion, the old Lord agreed to: but, as he had expended a good deal of money in equipping his two eldest daughters, he could provide the youngest only with a poor old cart horse, and the meanest apparel imaginable. When these were ready, the old gentleman embraced her tenderly, and she bade both him and her sisters farewell.

Passing through the same field, the old shepherdess again presented herself, employed as before. "What are you about, my good woman?" said this amiable cavalier: "can I be of any service to you?" and perceiving, as he advanced, the sheep struggling in the water, immediately jumped off his horse, and pulled it out. Upon this, the old shepherdess turned to him, and said: "Charming stranger, you shall find me grateful for the kindness you have done me. I am a fairy, and know well enough who you are, and I will be your friend." Accordingly, she touched the ground with her wand, and the most beautiful horse, superbly harnessed, stood before them, and seemed to invite the cavalier to get upon his back.

"The beauty of this horse," continued the fairy, is his least perfection; for he possesses the rare quality of eating only once a week; and the still rarer, of knowing the past, the present, and the future. If you wish at any time to know what you ought to do for the best, you have only to consult him: you should therefore regard him as your best friend." The fairy added, that if he stood in need of clothes, money, or jewels, he must stamp with his foot upon the ground, when a morocco trunk, containing the article he desired, would instantly make its appearance. "We must next," said she, "supply you with a proper name; and none, I think, can be better than that of Fortunio, since you have had the good fortune to deserve my favour."

Fortunio assured the fairy of his eternal gratitude: he stamped with his foot that he might procure him-

self a magnificent suit of clothes; he dressed himself, embraced his bountiful friend, and pursued his way to the palace of the king.

At the end of his first day's journey, he thought of sending a sum of money to his father, and some jewels to his sisters: he therefore shut himself in his chamber, and stamped loudly with his foot; a trunk immediately appeared—but it was locked, and without a key.

Fortunio was at a loss how to remedy this new perplexity; when suddenly recollecting that Comrade (so the horse was called) could most probably afford him some assistance, he paid him a visit in his stable. "Comrade," said he, "where can I find the key of the trunk filled with money and jewels?" "In my ear," says Comrade. Fortunio looked in his ear, and there was the key tied to a piece of green ribband. He then joyfully opened the trunk, and dispatched the presents.

The next morning he mounted his faithful Comrade, and proceeded on his journey. They had not gone far, when, passing through a thick forest, they saw a man cutting down trees. Comrade stopped, and told his master he had better engage this man, whose name was Strongback, in his service, as a fairy had bestowed on him the gift of carrying what weight he chose upon his back at once. Fortunio approached, and found him extremely willing to accept his offer.

When they had proceeded a little further, they saw another man, who was tying his legs together. Comrade again stopped, saying: "Master, you cannot do better than to hire this man also; for he has the gift of running ten times faster than a deer; for which reason it is that he is now tying his legs, that he may not run so fast as to leave all the game he is going in pursuit of behind him." Fortunio engaged Lightfoot also, without the least hesitation.

On the following day they perceived a man who was tying a bandage over his eyes. "He, too," said

Comrade, "is gifted, for he can see at the distance of a thousand miles; on which account, as he is going to kill game, he wishes to make his sight less perfect, that he may not kill so many at a time as to leave none for the following day: he cannot fail of being useful to us." Fortunio accordingly engaged him without difficulty, and found his name was Marksman.

At a short distance further they saw a man lying on his side, and putting his ear to the ground. Fortunio asked Comrade, if he too was gifted, and if he thought he could be useful to him? "Nothing is more certain," answered Comrade. "This man has the gift of hearing in such perfection as none before him ever possessed: his name is Fine-ear, and he is this moment employed in listening, to hear if some herbs he stands in need of are now coming up from the earth." Fortunio thought the gift of Fine-ear more curious than even the rest, and accordingly made him such proposals for entering his service as he thought proper to accept.

When they were on their last day's journey, they had the good fortune to meet with another man, who, as well as the rest, was gifted in the most extraordinary manner; for Comrade assured him that he could work wind-mills with a single breath. "Shall I engage him too?" cried Fortunio. "You will have reason to be satisfied, if you do so," answered Comrade. So Boisterer was instantly engaged.

Just as they were in sight of the city, in which the palace stood, they observed two men sitting near each other on the ground. "Ah!" cried Comrade, "no one was ever so fortunate as you, my master: both these men are also gifted; if we had been one minute later, no doubt we should have missed them. He who sits nearest to us is called Gormand, because he can eat a thousand loaves at a mouthful. The other drinks up whole rivers without once stopping to breathe; his name is Tippler: get them both into your service and your good fortune will be complete." Fortunio did not hesitate a moment in doing as he was desi-

red: so he proceeded to the palace, attended by Strongback, Lightfoot, Marksman, Fine-ear, Boisterer, Gormand, and Tippler, who all promised to use their extraordinary talents as he should be pleased to command.

Fortunio then stamped with his foot, and a trunk made its appearance, filled with the richest liveries to fit each of them; which they accordingly put on, and proceeded in great pomp to the king's palace, where Fortunio was most graciously received, and provided with the best apartments it afforded, the king having desired he would rest from his fatigue before he entered into conversation with him.

The next day his majesty requested to speak with Fortunio, who instantly obeyed the summons: he presented him to the princess, his sister; who, having been married when young to a neighbouring prince, was now a widow, and was living with her brother, to console him in his misfortunes. She received Fortunio very kindly, thinking he was the handsomest prince she had ever beheld. The king asked Fortunio his name and family; and upon hearing he was the son of an earl, who had formerly served in defence of his crown, loaded him with new destinctions, and assured him of his regard.

While preparations were making for the attack that was meditated against the emperor, our young lady remained in the palace; and, being constantly in company with the king, perceived in him so many amiable qualities, that she would willingly have offered herself to be his page, if she had not feared that such a proposal might look like want of courage to fight in his army.

But while she was thus thinking she should like to spend her life with the king, the princess, his sister, was thinking she should like to spend her's with Fortunio; for she had fallen exceedingly in love with his uncommon beauty. She loaded him with presents, always spoke to him in the softest manner imaginable, and was in hopes he would discover how much she wished he should feel for her the same affection.

Fortunio, however, appeared perfectly indifferent, and as the king's company was so very dear to him, he constantly left the princess to obtain it; so that at length she said to her favourite companion, Florida, "He is so young and inexperienced that he will never understand how much I love him, if he is not told of it. Go," continued she, "and ask him if he should not like to marry such a princess as I am."

Florida left the princess: but being herself no less in love with Fortunio, "whose condition and age," says she, "are surely more suitable to mine than to the princess," she used the opportunity to tell him how very peevish the princess was, and how disagreeable she found her situation. Then returning to her mistress, she told her, that all she said made no impression on Fortunio, who she did not doubt was in love with some lady of his own country.

The princess sent Florida from time to time upon the same expedition, without the least success. At length, she determined to see him herself in private: accordingly, she ordered Florida to watch when he should be walking alone near a small arbour in the garden. She did not wait long for the opportunity she desired: seeing Fortunio near the arbour, she waited till he had entered it, and then proceeded thither. Fortunio on seeing her would have retired; but she desired him to stay and assist her with his arm in walking. The princess at first talked of the fineness of the weather, and the beauty of the gardens and the fountains. At length she said: "You cannot, Fortunio, but be sensible of the great affection I bear you: I am therefore surprised that you do not take advantage of your good fortune, by asking me in marriage of the king my brother."

Fortunio was thrown into the greatest confusion; which the princes interpreted as a proof that he did not dislike what she had proposed: but what was he surprise and indignation, when, a moment after, he said: "I feel for you, madam, all the respect due to the sister of so amiable a king; but I am not free to

marry you." She was red and pale by turns; and after telling him he should repent his coldness, she left him suddenly.

The earl's daughter was now in the greatest perplexity imaginable, and would have found some pretence for absenting herself from the palace till the army should be ready, if she could have left the king without the greatest pain. Her uneasiness every day increased, and she carefully avoided meeting the princess alone.

One day, as the king, the princess, and Fortunio were sitting at their dessert, the king looked very melancholy; and his sister asking him the reason: "You know," said he, "what an affliction has happened in my kingdom. A great dragon has devoured several of my subjects, and many flocks of sheep; his breath poisons the waters of the fountains he approaches, and destroys all the fields of corn through which he passes. Can you, therefore, wonder at my sorrow?" The princess thought she could not have a better opportunity of revenging herself for the indifference of the young cavalier. "Brother," said she, "here is the brave Fortunio, who would esteem it, no doubt, the highest honour to be permitted to kill this monster, and thus reward the kindness your majesty has been pleased to show him."

Fortunio could not but accept the proffered honour; which the princess was in hopes would be the means of revenging the affront he had offered her, by being the cause of his death. He had no sooner left the room, than he went to his faithful Comrade, to know in what manner he should set about the enterprise. "You should go," replied Comrade, "in pursuit of the dragon, as the king requires, and take with you the seven gifted attendants you lately engaged."

Fortunio the next morning waited accordingly on the king and princess to take a formal leave. The king gave him the kindest assurances imaginable, and bade him adieu with the sincerest sorrow for the danger to which he would soon be exposed. The princess

tried to seem extremely sorry also, and expressed her wishes to see him return in safety. After this Fortunio, mounted on Comrade, and attended by Strongback, Lightfoot, Marksman, Fine-ear, Boisterer, Gormand, and Tippler, set out to find the dragon. They were indeed of immediate use to him in this undertaking; for Tippler drank up all the rivers, so that they could easily cross from field to field, and catch the rarest kinds of fish for their master's dinner. Lightfoot ran after hares and rabbits; Marksman shot at partridges and pheasants; Strongback carried them all upon his back; and Fine-ear, by putting his ear to the ground, found out the places where the mushrooms and kitchen herbs were coming out of the ground.

They had not proceeded more than a day's journey, when they heard the cries of some peasants that the dragon was eating up as fast he could. Fortunio immediately asked Comrade what he should do. "Let Fine-ear find out in what place he is," answered Comrade. Fine-ear immediately put his ear to the ground, and informed his master the dragon was seven leagues off. "Then," continued Comrade, "let Tippler drink up all the rivers that are between us, and let Strongback carry wine enough to fill them, and next strew some of the hares and partridges along them." Fortunio then entered a house that stood near, to watch the event. In less than an hour the dragon was in sight, and, smelling the hares and partridges, began to eat voraciously; and finding himself at length thirsty, he drank no less eagerly of the wine; so that in a short time, being quite drunk, he threw himself on the ground, and fell fast asleep. "Now is your time, my good master," said the faithful Comrade. Fortunio immediately approached the dragon, and with a single blow cut off his head, and then commanded Strongback to take him up and carry him to the palace.

The king received Fortunio with the liveliest joy and affection; and the princess too, disguising as well as she could her disappointment, returned him thanks

for the service he had done to the whole kingdom: "at the same time," thinks she to herself, "it shall not be long before I find some better means of being revenged."

Soon after, the king being again extremely sorrowful, the princess inquired the cause as before. "Alas!" said he, "how can I be otherwise, since the emperor has not left me money enough to prepare the army I intended to send out against him?"—"Brother," answered she, "can you suppose that Fortunio, who was able to do what twenty armies could not have done, in killing the dragon, is not also able to oblige the emperor to restore your treasures? I am certain you are most unjust if you believe the contrary."

Fortunio, though he fully understood the malice of the princess, could not but assure his majesty of his earnest desire to make the experiment; upon which the king, after tenderly embracing him, and protesting that, should any accident befall him in the undertaking, he should never again be happy, gave him the necessary instructions for his departure.

Fortunio lost no time in consulting Comrade, saying, he feared his destruction was now certain. "Do not, my dear master, thus afflict yourself," said Comrade. "I have long foreseen that this would happen, and I have no doubt you will return from your undertaking as victorious as before. You should give to each of your attendants," continued he, "a new and splendid livery, let them be mounted on handsome horses, and we will set out without delay."

They arrived in a few hours in the city of the emperor; when, after taking some refreshment, they proceeded to the palace, where Fortunio demanded of him an interview, in which he made a formal claim to all the treasures of king Alfourite. The emperor at this could not restrain a smile: "Do you really think," said he, "that I should so easily resign what I took such pains to obtain? If you had brought an army with you, we might, to be sure, have contended for the victory; but as it is, I would advise you, young cava-

lier, not to force me to use harsh means in sending you out of my kingdom." Fortunio replied, that he meant no incivility, but begged the emperor to consider of his request.

"This is really very extraordinary," said the emperor: "however, as your demand is ridiculous enough, I will offer you a condition no less ridiculous. If you can find a man that will eat all the bread that has been provided for the inhabitants of this city, for his breakfast, I will grant your request." Fortunio could scarce contain himself for joy. He replied that he accepted the condition, and sent instantly for Gormand; when telling him what had passed, he inquired if he was quite sure he could eat the whole. "Never fear, my good master," answers Gormand: "you will see that they will be sooner sorry than I."

When the emperor, the empress, the princess his daughter, and the whole court, had seated themselves to witness this extraordinary undertaking, Fortunio advanced with Gormand by his side; and seeing six great mountains of loaves that almost reached the skies, he began to fear: but looking at Gormand, and seeing how eager he was to begin, he again took courage. When the proper signal was given, Gormand attacked the first mountain, and in less than a minute had swallowed the whole: he did the same with the second, and so on to the sixth; which having completely devoured, he told the emperor he must take the liberty to say he had but a scanty breakfast, considering he was in the dominions of so rich a monarch.

Never was any astonishment so great as that of the spectators; and the inhabitants of the city, who had all assembled to see so singular a sight, now fell to crying, and said, "We shall have no bread to give our children for many days."

But the emperor's disappointment was still greater; so commanding Fortunio to approach, he said: "Young cavalier, you cannot possibly expect that I should give you the treasures of king Alfourite, because you happen to have a servant who is a great eater.

However, to show you that I hold you in some consideration, find a man who shall drink up all the rivers, aqueducts, and reservoirs, together with all the wine that is in the cellars of all my subjects, in the space of a minute, and I promise to grant your request."

Fortunio thought his majesty acted very dishonourably, yet he did not hesitate to accept his new proposal: accordingly Tippler was immediately sent for, and performed his task with equal ease, to the astonishment of the surrounding multitude.

The emperor now looked extremely grave, telling Fortunio, that what he had seen, though extremely singular, was not enough to deserve the costly recompense he claimed: "Therefore," continued he, "if you would obtain it, you must find a person who is as swift in running as my daughter." Fortunio, though extremely dissatisfied, was obliged to consent; and, sending for Lightfoot, bade him prepare for running a race with a princess whom no one had ever yet been able to overtake. In the mean time the princess retired to put on the dress and shoes which had been made on purpose for her to run in; and on her return, finding Lightfoot ready for the contest, they prepared to set off at the appointed signal. The princess now called for some of the cordial she was accustomed to drink when she was going to run; upon which Lightfoot observed it would be but just that he should have some too: to this the princess readily consented; and stepping aside, she dexterously threw into his glass a few drops of a liquid that had the power to throw him into a profound sleep.

The signal being given, the princess set off full speed; while Lightfoot, instead of doing the same, threw himself on the ground, and fell fast asleep. The race was several miles long; and the princess had proceeded more than half way, when Fortunio, seeing her approach the goal without Lightfoot, turned as pale as death, and cried out, "Comrade, I am undone; I see nothing of Lightfoot." "My lord," answered Comrade, "Fine-ear shall tell you in a

moment how far he is off." Fine-ear listened, and informed Fortunio that Lightfoot was snoring in the place from which the princess began her race. Then Comrade directed Marksman to shoot an arrow into his ear; which he did so completely, that Lightfoot started up, and, seeing the princess nearly arrived at the goal, set off with such rapidity, that he seemed carried by the winds, and, passing the princess, reached it before her.

The emperor was now almost frantic with rage; and recollecting that he had some years ago displeased a fairy, he concluded that the miracles he had seen performed were contrived by her to punish him: he therefore thought it would be useless to propose further experiments; and calling for Fortunio, he said to him, "It cannot be denied that you have accomplished my conditions, take therefore away with you as much of the treasures of King Alfourite as one of your attendants can carry on his back."

Fortunio desired nothing better; and being instantly admitted to the store-rooms which contained them, he commanded Strongback to begin to load himself.—Strongback accordingly laid hold at first of five hundred statues of gold, taller than giants, next of ten thousand bags of money, and afterwards of as many filled with precious stones; he then took the chariots and horses: in short, he left not a single article that had formerly belonged to king Alfourite.

They then hastened from the palace, and proceeded to king Alfourite's dominions. No sooner were they on the road than the seven gifted attendants began to ask what recompense they were to have for their services. "The recompense belongs to me," said Lightfoot; "for if I had not outrun the princess, we might have returned as we came."—"And, pray," says Fine-ear, "what would you have done if I had not heard you snore?"—"I think you must both acknowledge," says Marksman, "that our success was owing to my shooting the arrow exactly into Lightfoot's ear."—"I cannot help wondering at your arrogance," says Strong-

back; "pray who brought away the treasures? To whom can you be indebted but to me?" Thus they were going on, when Fortunio interrupted them with saying: "It is true, my friends, you have all performed miracles; but you should leave to the king the care of rewarding you. He sent us to regain his treasures, and not to steal them: but," continued he, "should his majesty fail to reward you, yet you shall have no reason to complain, for I will take upon myself to gratify your largest expectations."

Fortunio arrived in safety with the treasures at the palace of king Alfourite, who beheld him with amazement, and embraced him in the utmost transport; and his bravery so increased the attachment the princess had conceived for him, that she that very day desired to speak with him in private, intending once more to question him as to his thoughts concerning her: "for," says she to herself, "when I remind him of the honours I have been the means of his obtaining how can he do otherwise than return my affection?"

Fortunio received her summons, but sent her for answer, that he could not have the pleasure of waiting on her. The princess, enraged by his disdain, ran to the king all in tears, in the middle of the night, and declared that Fortunio had sent Strongback to her chamber to carry her away by force, that he might marry her: that previous to his late enterprise he had himself engaged in a similar attempt. "In short, dear brother," said the artful creature, "nothing but the death of this presumptuous wretch can satisfy my vengeance, or ensure my safety."

The king's affliction at hearing this was greater than can be described; and having passed the night in lamenting the cruel necessity to which he was reduced of punishing him, he the next morning ordered him to be taken into custody, and to be tried for the offence.

When the time of trial came, it was in vain that Fortunio pleaded his innocence: no one believed it possible for a great princess to invent so wicked a falsehood: so the judges declared him guilty, and

Fortunio.

Jack the Giant-killer.

condemned him to receive three darts shot into his heart on that very day.

The king left the court shedding many tears; but the cruel princess staid to see the sentence executed. The officer, approaching Fortunio, unbuttoned his waistcoat, and then opened his shirt, that his heart might be bare to receive the darts; but no sooner was this done, than the snowy whiteness of the bosom that appeared, convinced all the beholders, that the sufferer was a woman.

Every eye was immediately turned upon the princess, to reproach her with the baseness of her conduct in bringing so false an accusation against an innocent creature, and one, besides, who had shown such unexampled courage, and done the state such signal services; while she, unable to bear the shame that awaited her, took out of her pocket a sharp knife, and plunged it into her heart, saying, "Fortunio is revenged of my injustice."

Fortunio was led in triumph to the palace; and the king, when he had spent some weeks in bewailing the unfortunate end of the princess his sister, made an offer of his hand and crown to Fortunio. Their marriage was celebrated with the greatest pomp. The old earl and his two daughters were sent for on the occasion, and ever after remained at court. The first care of the new queen was to provide a magnificent stable for Comrade, whom she visited daily, and consulted upon all affairs of importance, so that the king never after lost a battle. She settled a handsome pension on Strongback, Lightfoot, Marksman, Fine-ear, Boisterer, Gormand, and Tippler, who all lived together in a splendid castle a few miles in the country; it being agreed between the queen and them, that when her majesty should have occasion for their service, she should say so to some one in the palace, so that Fine-ear might catch the sound, and send the person she desired.

The queen sent an express to invite the old shepherdess to court: but she refused, saying, all she wished was the queen's happiness, and that she should now leave the world with satisfaction.

JACK THE GIANT-KILLER.

In the reign of the celebrated king Arthur, there lived near the Land's-End of England, in the county of Cornwall, a worthy farmer who had an only son, named Jack. Jack was a boy of a bold and enterprising spirit; he delighted in stories of magicians, conjurers, giants, and fairies, and used to listen with the greatest attention while his father talked of the valiant deeds of the famous knights of king Arthur's round table.

When Jack was sent to take care of the sheep and oxen at their pasture, he used to amuse himself with planning battles, sieges, and the means of defeating or surprising an enemy. He disdained the common sports of children; but at wrestling scarcely any one could equal him; or if by chance he met with an adversary whose strength was superior to his own, his skill and address always ensured him the victory; for whatever he could not perform by force and strength, he completed by wit and policy.

In those days St. Michael's Mount of Cornwall, which rises out of the sea at some distance from the main land, was inhabited by an enormous giant. He was eighteen feet high, and three yards in circumference: his fierce and savage countenance was the terror of all the neighbouring towns and villages.

He dwelt in a gloomy cavern on the very top of the mountain, and used to wade over to the main land in search of his prey. At his approach the people forsook their habitations; and when he had glutted his ferocious appetite upon their cattle, he would throw half a dozen oxen upon his back, and tie three times as many sneep and hogs round his waist, and so march back to his gloomy dwelling. The giant had followed this practice during many years, and the coast of Cornwall was greatly impoverished by his ravages, when Jack valiantly undertook to destroy the devouring monster.

Jack furnished himself with a horn, a shovel, a pick-axe, and a dark lanthern; and in the beginning of a long winter's evening, he swam to the mount, where he immediately fell to work, and before morning had dug a pit twenty-two feet deep, and almost as many broad, which he covered on the surface with sticks and straw; and lightly strewing some of the earth over them, gave it the appearance of solid ground. He then, putting his horn to his mouth, blew so loud and long a tantivy, that the giant awoke and came towards Jack, roaring in a voice like thunder—"You impudent villain, you shall pay dearly for disturbing my repose. I will broil you for my breakfast."

Scarcely had he spoken these words, when, advancing one step further, he tumbled headlong into the pit, and his fall shook the very foundations of the mountain.

"O ho! Mr. Giant," quoth Jack, looking into the pit, "have you found your way so quickly to the bottom? How is your appetite now? Will nothing serve you for breakfast this cold morning but broiling poor Jack?"

The giant now making an effort to rise, Jack struck him a terrible blow on the crown of the head with his pick-axe; when, falling backward, he expired with a single groan. Jack immediately threw the earth on him as he lay in the pit, and so buried him.

On searching the cavern he found much treasure; but he did not stay to secure it, so eager was he to get back to congratulate his countrymen on the destruction of their cruel foe.

Now when the magistrates of Cornwall heard of this valiant exploit, they sent for Jack, declaring he should henceforth be called Jack the Giant-Killer, and also presented him with a sword and belt, upon which was embroidered in letters of gold:

> "This is the valiant Cornish man
> Who slew the giant Cormoran."

The news of Jack's victory was soon spread over the western parts of England; and another giant,

called Old Blunderbore, vowed to be revenged on Jack, if it should ever be his fortune to get him into his power.

This giant kept an enchanted castle situated in the midst of a lonely wood; and about four months after the death of Cormoran, as Jack was travelling to Wales, he passed through this wood; and being very weary, he sat down to rest by the side of a pleasant fountain, where a deep sleep suddenly seized upon him.

The giant coming to the fountain for water, found him there, and by the lines on his belt knew him to be Jack, and lifting him up, laid him gently upon his shoulder to carry him to his enchanted castle. As he passed through the thicket, the rustling of the leaves awakened Jack; who finding himself in the clutches of Blunderbore, was not a little frightened,—though this was only the beginning of his terrors, for on entering the castle he beheld the floor covered with human skulls and bones.

The giant carried him into a large parlour, where lay the hearts, blood, and quarters of persons lately slain; and he told Jack, with a horrible grin, that men's hearts eaten with pepper and vinegar, was his favourite food, and also that he expected to make a curious repast on his heart. This said, he locked Jack up in that room, while he went to fetch a brother giant who lived in the same wood, to enjoy with him the destruction of honest Jack.

While he was absent, dreadful shrieks, groans, and cries assailed the ears of Jack, and presently he heard a mournful voice repeat these lines:

"Haste, valiant stranger, haste away,
Lest you become the giant's prey.
On his return he'll bring another
Still more furious than his brother—
A savage, cruel monster, who
Before he kills will torture you.
O valiant stranger! haste away,
Or you'll become these giants' prey."

This warning so affrighted poor Jack, that he was ready to run distracted. He flew to the window, and

beheld afar off the two giants coming arm in arm together. This window was immediately over the gates of the castle. "Now," thought Jack, "my death or deliverance is at hand."

There happened to be two strong cords in the room, at the end of each of which he made a large noose with a slip knot; and as the giants were unlocking the iron gates, he threw the ropes over each of their heads, and then fastening the other end to a beam in the ceiling, he pulled with all his might till he had nearly strangled them. Seeing that they were both black in the face, and quite unable to make the least resistance, he drew his sword, and, sliding down the ropes, slew both the giants, and thus delivered himself from their intended cruelty.

Then taking a great bunch of keys from the pocket of Blunderbore, he entered the castle; where, upon strict search through all the apartments, he found three ladies tied up by the hair of their heads, and almost starved to death; who told him that their husbands had been murdered by the cruel giants, who had afterwards condemned them to be starved to death, because they had refused to eat the flesh of their murdered husbands.

"Ladies," said Jack, "I have destroyed the monster and his wicked brother; and this castle, and all the wealth that it contains, I give to you, in consideration of the dreadful sufferings you have undergone." He then, with all imaginable politeness, presented them with the keys of the castle, and proceeded on his journey to Wales.

Jack, having thus forborne to enrich himself by his conquests over the giants, and being possessed of very little money, thought it prudent to travel with the utmost speed. At length losing his way, he was benighted in a lonely valley between two lofty mountains, where, after wandering for some hours without seeing any habitation, he thought himself very fortunate in finding a large and handsome house.

Passing the outer court, he knocked boldly at the

gate, when to his horror and amazement there came forth a monstrous giant with two heads. He accosted Jack very civilly—for he was a Welch giant—and all the mischief he did was by private and secret malice, under the show of friendship and complaisance. Jack telling him that he was a benighted traveller, who had lost his way, was immediately kindly welcomed by the huge monster, and conducted into a chamber where there was a good bed for him to pass the night in.

Jack undressed himself quickly; but, weary as he was, he could not go to sleep; and presently he heard the giant walking backward and forward in the next apartment, and repeating to himself:

> "Though here you lodge with me this night,
> You shall not see the morning light,
> My club shall dash your brains out quite."

"Say you so!" thought Jack. "Are these your tricks upon travellers? But I hope to prove as cunning as you are."—Then getting out of bed, he groped about the room, and at length found in the chimney a large thick billet of wood, and, laying it in his place, hid himself in a dark corner of the room.

In the middle of the night the giant came with his enormous club, and struck several heavy blows on the bed, in the very place where Jack had cunningly laid the billet. and then returned to his own room, supposing he had broken all Jack's bones.

Early in the morning Jack put a bold face upon the matter, and walked into the giant's apartment to thank him for his lodging. The giant started at his approach, and with great difficulty stammered out—"Oh! dear me! is it you? Pray how did you sleep last night? Did you hear any thing, or see any thing, in the dead of the night?"

"Nothing of any consequence," said Jack carelessly. "A troublesome rat, I believe, gave me three or four slaps with his tail and disturbed me a little; but I soon went to sleep again."

The giant more and more confused, did not answer a word, but went to bring two great bowls of

hasty pudding for their breakfast. Jack, unwilling to let the giant know that he was not able to eat as much as himself, contrived to button a leathern bag within his coat, into which he slipped the hasty pudding, while he pretended to put it into his mouth; and when breakfast was done, he said to the giant—"Now I will show you a most extraordinary trick. I can heal all wounds with a touch. I could cut off my head one minute, and the next place it sound again on my shoulders. I will give you an example:"—and seizing the knife, he ripped up the leathern bag, and all the hasty pudding tumbled out upon the floor.

"Ods splutter hur nails," cried the Welch giant, who was ashamed to be outdone by such a little fellow as Jack; "hur can do that hurself:"—and snatching up the knife he plunged it into his stomach, and instantly dropped down dead.

Jack, having thus outwitted the Welch monster, proceeded on his journey; and a few days afterwards he met with king Arthur's only son, who had obtained leave of his father to travel into Wales, to deliver a beautiful lady from the power of a wicked magician, that held her in his enchantments. Finding that the young prince was travelling without attendants, Jack begged leave to be his servant; to which request the royal youth consented, with numberless expressions of kindness.

The prince was a handsome, courteous, and accomplished knight, and so generous that he gave money to every person he met; and at length an old woman having begged of him the last penny he had, he turned to Jack and said—"How are we now to subsist in my intended journey?"

"Leave that to me, sir," answered Jack: "I will provide for my prince."—Night, however, came on, and the prince began to grow uneasy to think where they should lodge. "Sir," said Jack, "be of good courage. Two miles further there lives a huge giant, whom I know very well; he has three heads, and will fight five hundred men in armour, and make them fly before him."

"Alas!" replied the king's son, "we had better never have been born than encounter such a monster. We shall scarcely fill one of his hollow teeth."—"My lord," said Jack, "leave me to manage him, and do you wait here patiently till I return."

The prince remained, and Jack rode on at full speed. On coming to the gates of the castle, he knocked with such a force that he made all the neighbouring hills resound. The giant, with a voice like thunder, roared out, "Who is there?" He was answered, "No one but your poor cousin Jack."

"Well," quoth the giant, "what news with my poor cousin Jack?" He replied, "Dear Uncle, heavy news."—"Prithee, what heavy news can come to me? I am a giant with three heads; and besides, I can fight five hundred men in armour, and make them fly like chaff before the wind!" "Alas!" said Jack, "here is the king's son coming with two thousand men in armour to kill you, and to destroy the castle and all that you have."

"Oh! cousin Jack, this is heavy news indeed: but I have a large vault under ground, where I will immediately hide myself, and thou shalt lock, bolt, and bar me in, and keep the keys till the king's son is gone."

Now Jack, having secured the giant in the vault, returned, and fetched the prince to the castle, and they were both heartily merry with the wine and other dainties which were in the house. So that night they rested in very pleasant lodgings, whilst the poor giant lay trembling and shaking with fear in the vault under ground.

Early in the morning, Jack furnished the king's son with a fresh supply of gold and silver, and set him three miles forward on his journey; concluding at that distance he was pretty well out of the smell of the giant.

He then returned to let his uncle out of the hole, who asked Jack what he should give him as a reward for the preservation of his castle. "Why, good uncle," said Jack, "I desire nothing but the old coat and cap, together with the old rusty sword and slippers that are

hanging at your bed's head." "Then," said the giant, "thou shalt have them; and pray keep them for my sake, for they are things of excellent use. The coat will keep you invisible; the cap will furnish you with knowledge; the sword cut asunder whatever you strike; and the shoes of extraordinary swiftness; these may be serviceable in all times of danger; therefore take them with all my heart." Jack, with many thanks to the giant, departed and followed the prince.

Jack having overtaken the king's son, they soon arrived at the dwelling of the beautiful lady who was under the dominion of a wicked magician. She received the prince very courteously, and prepared a magnificent banquet for him; which being ended, she rose, and taking an embroidered handkerchief, wiped her mouth and said, "My lord, you must submit to the custom of my palace: to-morrow morning I command you to tell me on whom I bestow this handkerchief, or lose your head." She then put the handkerchief in her bosom, and retired.

The young prince went to bed very sorrowful; but Jack put on his cap of knowledge, which instructed him, that the lady was obliged by the power of the enchantment to meet the wicked magician every night in the middle of the forest. Jack instantly put on his coat of darkness, and his shoes of swiftness, and was there before her. When the lady came, she presented the handkerchief to the magician. Jack with his sword of sharpness instantly cut off his head: the enchantment was immediately dissolved, and the lady restored to her former virtue and goodness.

She was married to the prince with great pomp and solemnity on the following day, and soon after returned with her royal husband and a numerous company to the court of king Arthur; where they were received with loud and joyful acclamations; and the valiant hero Jack, for the many and great exploits that he had done for the good of his country, was immediately made one of the knights of the round table.

He having been hitherto successful in all his un-

dertaking, resolved not to be idle for the future, but to perform what services he could for the honour of the king and the nation: he therefore humbly besought his majesty to furnish him with a horse and money, that he might travel in search of new and strange adventures. "For," he said to the king, "there are many giants yet living among the mountains, in the remote parts of Wales, to the unspeakable terror and distress of your majesty's subjects; therefore, should it please you, sire, to encourage me in my enterprises, I will speedily rid the kingdom of these giants and devouring monsters in human shape." Now when the king heard his propositions, and had duly considered the mischievous practices of these blood-thirsty giants, and devouring monsters, he furnished him with every necessary for his progress; after which Jack took leave of the king, the prince, and all the knights of the round table, and departed, taking with him his cap of knowledge, his sword of sharpness, his shoes of swiftness, and his invisible coat, the better to perform the wonderful enterprises that lay before him.

He travelled over high hills and lofty mountains, and on the third day he came to a large and spacious forest, through which his road lay. Scarcely had he entered the forest, when on a sudden he heard very dreadful shrieks and cries. He pressed on through the trees, and beheld a monstrous giant dragging along by the hair of their heads a handsome knight and his beautiful lady. Their tears and cries melted the heart of honest Jack to pity and compassion: he alighted from his horse, and tying him to an oak tree, put on his invisible coat, under which he carried his sword of sharpness.

When he came up to the giant, he made several strokes at him, but could not reach his body, on account of the enormous height of the terrible creature; but he wounded his thighs in several places; and at length, putting both hands to his sword, and aiming with all his might, he cut off both the giant's legs, just below the garter; and the trunk of his body

tumbling to the ground, made not only the trees shake, but the earth itself tremble with the force of his fall.

Then Jack setting his foot upon his neck, exclaimed, "Thou barbarous and savage wretch, behold, I am come to execute upon thee the just reward of all thy crimes," and instantly plunged his sword into the giant's body. The huge monster gave a hideous groan, and yielded up his life into the hands of the victorious Jack the Giant-Killer, whilst the noble knight and his virtuous lady were both joyful spectators of his sudden death and their deliverance.

The courteous knight and his fair lady not only returned Jack hearty thanks for their deliverance, but also invited him to their house, there to refresh himself after this dreadful encounter, as likewise to receive a reward for his good services. "No," said Jack, "I cannot be at ease till I find out the den that was the monster's habitation."

The knight hearing this grew sorrowful, and replied, "Noble stranger, it is too much to make a second hazard: this monster lived in a den in yonder mountain, with a brother of his, more fierce and cruel than himself: therefore, if you should go thither and perish in the attempt, it would be a heart-breaking thing to both me and my lady; so let me persuade you to go with us, and desist from any further pursuit."

"Nay," answered Jack, "if there be another, even if there were twenty, I would shed the last drop of blood in my body before one of them should escape my fury. When I have finished this task I will come and pay my respects to you."

So taking directions to find their habitation, he mounted his horse, leaving the knight and his lady to return home, while he went in pursuit of the deceased giant's brother.

Jack had not rode above a mile and half, before he came in sight of the mouth of the cavern; near to the entrance of which he beheld the other giant sitting on a huge block of fine timber, with a knotted iron club lying by his side, waiting for the return of

his brother loaded with his barbarous prey. His eyes appeared like terrible flames of fire, his countenance was grim and ugly, and his cheeks looked like two flitches of bacon; the bristles of his beard seemed to be very thick rods of iron wire, and his long locks of hair hung down upon his broad shoulders like curling snakes, or hissing adders.

Jack alighted from his horse, and put him into a thicket; then with his coat of darkness he approached somewhat nearer to behold this figure; and said softly, "O monster! are you there? It will not be long before I shall take you fast by the beard.

The giant, all this while could not see his foe, by reason of his invisible coat: so coming close up to him, Jack struck a blow at his head with his sword of sharpness; but missing something of his aim, he only cut off the nose of the giant, who then roared like loud claps of thunder. And though he rolled his glaring eyes round on every side, he could not see whence the blow came that had done him that mischief: yet taking up his iron club, he began to lay about him like one that was mad with pain and fury.

"Nay," said Jack, "if this is the case, I had better dispatch you presently." So slipping dexterously behind him, and jumping nimbly upon the block of timber as the giant rose from it, he stabbed him in the back; when after a few howls he dropped down dead.

Jack cut off his head, and sent it with that of his brother, whom he had killed in the forest, to king Arthur, by a waggon which he had hired for that purpose, together with an account of all his prosperous undertakings.

Jack, having thus dispatched these two monsters, resolved to enter into the cave in search of the giant's treasure. He passed through a great many turnings and windings, which led him at length to a great room paved with freestone, at the upper end of which was a boiling cauldron, and on the right had stood a large table whereon he supposed the giants used to dine.

He then came to an iron grate, where a window was secured with bars of iron, through which he be-

held a number of miserable captives, who, seeing Jack at a distance, cried out, "Alas! alas! young man, art thou come to be one amongst us in this most horrible den?" "I hope," said Jack, "you will not tarry here long; but, I pray, what is the meaning of this captivity?"

"Alas!" said one poor old man, "I will tell you, Sir: we are persons that have been taken by the giants that hold this cave, and we are kept till such time as they have a fancy for an extraordinary feast; and then the fattest of us all is slaughtered, and prepared for their devouring jaws. It is not long since they took three for the same purpose. Full many a time have they dined upon murdered men."

"Well," said Jack, "I have given them such a dinner, that it will be long enough ere they have occasion for any more." The captives were amazed at his words. "You may believe me," says Jack; "for I have slain them with the edge of the sword, and have sent their monstrous heads in a waggon to the court of king Arthur, as trophies of my glorious victory." And in testimony of the truth of what he said, he unlocked the iron gate, setting the captives at liberty: who all rejoiced like condemned malefactors at the sight of a reprieve. Then leading them to the great room, he placed them round the table, and set before them two quarters of beef, with bread and wine; upon which they feasted plentifully.

Supper being over, they searched the giants' coffers, the store of which Jack equally divided among the captives, who gratefully thanked him for their happy deliverance. The next morning they departed to their respective habitations, and Jack to the knight's house, whom, with his lady, he had also delivered from the hands of these monstrous giants.

It was at the hour of sunrise in the morning that Jack mounted his horse to proceed on his journey. He arrived at the knight's house about noon, where he was received with all the demonstrations of joy imaginable, by the grateful knight and his beautiful lady,

who, in honour of Jack's victory, gave a splendid entertainment which lasted many days, and to which all the nobility and gentry in that part of the country were invited.

When the company were assembled, the knight related the noble exploits of Jack, and presented to him, as a token of gratitude, a most magnificent ring, on which was engraved the picture of the giant dragging the knight and the lady by the hair, with this motto round it:

> Behold in dire distress were we,
> Under a giant's fierce command;
> But gain'd our lives and liberty,
> From valiant Jack's victorious hand.

Among the guests then present were five aged gentlemen, who were fathers to some of those miserable captives who had been liberated by Jack from the dungeon of the giants. As soon as they understood that he was the person who had performed such wonders, the venerable men, with tears of gratitude, pressed round him to return him thanks for the happiness he had procured them and their families.

After this, the bowl went round, and every one drank to the health and long life of the gallant conqueror. Mirth increased, and the hall resounded with peals of laughter and joyful acclamations.

But, suddenly, a herald, pale and breathless with haste and terror, rushed into the midst of the company, and told them that Thundel, a ferocious giant with two heads, having heard of the death of his kinsmen, was come from the north to be revenged on Jack; and that he was now within a mile of the house; the country people all flying before him, like chaff before the wind.

At these tidings, the very boldest of the guests trembled with confusion and dismay, while the undaunted Jack brandished his sword, and said, "Let him come; I have a rod to chastise him also. Pray, gentlemen and ladies, do me the favour to walk into the garden, and you shall soon be spectators of the

giant's death and destruction." To this they all consented, heartily wishing him success in his dangerous enterprise.

The good knight's house was situated in an island encompassed with a moat thirty feet deep, and twenty wide, over which lay a draw-bridge. Jack employed two men to cut the bridge on each side, almost to the middle; and then dressing himself in his coat of darkness, he went against the giant with his sword of sharpness. As he came close up to him, though the giant could not see him by reason of his invisible coat, yet he was sensible of some impending danger, which made him cry out,

"Fa, fe, fi, fo, fum,
I smell the blood of an Englishman:
Be he alive, or be he dead,
I'll grind his bones to make me bread."

"Say you so, my friend?" said Jack. "You are a monstrous miller indeed." "Art thou," cried the giant, "the villain who killed my kinsmen? Then I will tear thee with my teeth, and grind thy bones to powder." "You must catch me first," said Jack; and throwing off his coat of darkness, and putting on his shoes of swiftness, he began to run; the giant following after like a walking castle, making the earth to shake at every step.

Jack led him round and round the walls of the house, that the company might see this monster in nature; and to finish the work, Jack ran over the draw-bridge, the giant pursuing him with his club: but coming to the middle, where the bridge had been cut on each side by Jack's order, with the very great weight of his body, and the vast steps he took, it broke, and he tumbled into the water, and rolled about like a large whale.

Jack standing by the moat, laughed at him, and jeered him, saying: "I think you told me you would grind my bones to powder: when do you begin?"

The giant foamed at his horrid mouths with fury, and plunged from side to side of the moat; but he could not get out to be revenged upon his adversary.

Jack, at length, ordered a cart-rope to be brought to him; he cast it over the giant's two heads, and by the help of a team of horses he dragged him to the edge of the moat, where, in the presence of the knight and his guests, he cut off the monster's heads, and, before he ate or drank, sent them both to the court of king Arthur. He then returned to table with the rest of the company, and the remainder of the day was spent in mirth and good cheer.

After being hospitably entertained by the courteous knight for some time longer, Jack grew weary of leading so idle a life, and set out again in search of new conquests. He travelled over many hills and dales, through gloomy forests and pleasant groves, without meeting with any adventure: till arriving at the foot of an exceedingly high mountain, he knocked at the door of a small and lonely house, when an old man, with a head as white as snow, arose and let him in.

"Good father," said Jack, "can you lodge a benighted traveller who has lost his way?"

"Yes," replied the venerable hermit, "I can, if you will accept such accommodation as my poor house affords." Jack therefore entered the hermitage, and the old man set before him bread and fruit for his supper.

When Jack had satisfied his hunger, the hermit addressed him as follows: "My son, I well know you are the far-famed conqueror of giants, and on the top of this mountain is an enchanted castle, maintained by a giant, named Galligantus, who, by the help of a vile magician, gets many knights into his castle, where he transforms them into the shape of beasts. Above all, I lament the hard fate of a duke's daughter, whom they seized as she was walking in her father's garden, and brought hither through the air in a chariot drawn by two fiery dragons, and transformed her into the shape of a deer. Several knights have endeavoured to destroy the enchantment and effect her deliverance; yet none have been able to accomplish

it, by reason of two fiery griffins, who guard the gates of the castle, and destroy all who approach it. You, my son, being furnished with an invisible coat, may pass by them undiscovered, and on the gates of the castle you will find engraved by what means the enchantment may be broken."

The old man having ended his discourse, Jack gave him his hand, promising in the morning, at the hazard of his life, to break the enchantment, and free the lady and all those that were partners with her in the same calamity.

Jack, having refreshed himself with a sound sleep, arose early the next morning, put on his invisible coat, and prepared for the enterprise.

When he had climbed to the top of the mountain, he discovered the two fiery griffins, between which he passed without the least fear of danger, for they could not see him, because he was clothed in his invisible coat. On the castle-gate he found a golden trumpet, under which these lines were written:

Whoever can this trumpet blow
Shall cause the giant's overthrow.

Jack had no sooner read this motto, than he seized the golden trumpet, and blew a shrill blast, which made the gates fly open, and the foundations of the castle tremble.

The giant and the conjurer knowing that their wicked practices were at an end, stood biting their thumbs and shaking with fear. Jack with his sword of sharpness demolished the giant; and the magician mounted immediately into the air, and was carried away by a whirlwind.

Thus was the whole enchantment dissolved, and every valiant knight and beautiful lady, who had been transformed into birds and beasts, returned to their former shapes. The castle, though it seemed of vast strength, vanished away like smoke, and the head of the giant Galligantus was immediately conveyed to King Arthur.

The knights and ladies rested that night at the old

man's hermitage, and on the next day set out for the court. Jack presented himself to the king, and related the history of all his fierce encounters.

His fame ran through the whole country; and the king prevailed on the duke to give his daughter in marriage to Jack, protesting there was no one so deserving of her as he who had delivered her from so horrible a condition. The duke consented; and they were married, not only to the joy of the court, but of all the kingdom. After which, the king, as a reward for the services which Jack had done the nation, gave him a plentiful estate, on which he and his lady lived the residue of their days in joy and contentment.

TOM THUMB.

In the days of king Arthur, Merlin, the most learned enchanter of his time, was on a journey; and, being very weary, stopped one day at the cottage of an honest plough-man to ask for refreshment. The plough-man's wife, with great civility, immediately brought him some milk in a wooden bowl, and some brown bread on a wooden platter.

Merlin could not help observing, that, although every thing within the cottage was particularly neat and in good order, the ploughman and his wife had the most sorrowful air imaginable: so he questioned them on the cause of their melancholy, and learned that they were very miserable because they had no children.

The poor woman declared, with tears in her eyes, that she should be the happiest creature in the world, if she had but a son, although he were no bigger than his father's thumb.

Merlin was very much amused with the thoughts of a boy no bigger than a man's thumb; and, as soon as he returned home, he sent for the queen of the fairies (with whom he was very intimate), and related to her the desire of the ploughman and his wife to have a son the size of his father's thumb.

The queen of the fairies liked the plan exceedingly, and declared their wish should speedily be granted. Accordingly the ploughman's wife had a son, who, in a few minutes, grew as tall as his father's thumb.

The queen of the fairies came in at the window as the mother was sitting up in the bed admiring the child. The queen kissed the infant, and giving it the name of Tom Thumb, immediately summoned several fairies from Fairy Land to clothe her little new favourite:

An oak leaf hat he had for his crown,
His shirt it was by spiders spun;
With doublet wove of thistles down,
His trowsers up with points were done·
His stockings, of apple rind, they tie
With eye lash pluck'd from his mother's eye.
His shoes were made of a mouse's skin,
Nicely tann'd with the hair within.

Tom never was any bigger than his father's thumb, which was not a large thumb either; but, as he grew older, he became very cunning and sly, which his mother did not sufficiently correct him for: so that, when he was old enough to play with the boys for cherry stones, and had lost all his own, he used to creep into the other boys' bags, fill his pockets, and come out again to play.

But one day as he was getting out of a bag of cherry-stones, the boy to whom it belonged chanced to see him. "Ah ha," my little Tom Thumb!" said the boy, "have I caught you at your bad tricks at last? Now I will reward you for thieving." Then drawing the string tight round his neck, and shaking the bag heartily, the cherry stones bruised Tom's legs, thighs, and body sadly; which made him beg to be let out, and promise never to be guilty of such things any more.

Shortly afterwards, Tom's mother was making a batter pudding, and, that he might see how she mixed it, he climbed on the edge of the bowl; but his foot happening to slip, he fell over head and ears into the batter, and his mother not observing him, stirred him into the pudding, and popped him into the pot to

The hot water made Tom kick and struggle; and his mother, seeing the pudding jump up and down in such a furious manner, thought it was bewitched; and a tinker coming by just at the time, she quickly gave him the pudding, who put it into his budget and walked on.

As soon as Tom could get the batter out of his mouth, he began to cry aloud; which so frightened the poor tinker, that he flung the pudding over the hedge, and ran away from it as fast as he could run. The pudding being broken to pieces by the fall, Tom was released, and walked home to his mother, who gave him a kiss and put him to bed.

Tom Thumb's mother once took him with her when she went to milk the cow; and it being a very windy day, she tied him with a needleful of thread to a thistle, that he might not be blown away. The cow, liking his oak-leaf hat, took him and the thistle up at one mouthful. While the cow chewed the thistle, Tom, terrified at her great teeth, which seemed ready to crush him to pieces, roared, "Mother, mother!" as loud as he could bawl.

"Where are you? Tommy, my dear Tommy!" said the mother.

"Here, mother, here in the red cow's mouth."

The mother began to cry and wring her hands; but the cow, surprised at such odd noises in her throat, opened her mouth and let him drop out. His mother clapped him into her apron, and ran home with him.

Tom's father made him a whip of a barley straw to drive the cattle with, and being one day in the field he slipped into a deep furrow. A raven flying over picked him up with a grain of corn, and flew with him to the top of a giant's castle, by the sea-side, where he left him; and old Grumbo the giant, coming soon after to walk upon his terrace, swallowed Tom like a pill, clothes and all.

Tom presently made the giant very uncomfortable, and he threw him up into the sea. A great fish then swallowed him. This fish was soon after caught, and

sent as a present to king Arthur. When it was cut open, every body was delighted with little Tom Thumb. The king made him his dwarf; he was the favourite of the whole court; and, by his merry pranks, often amused the queen and the knights of the round table.

The king, when he rode on horseback, frequently took Tom in his hand; and, if a shower of rain came on, he used to creep into the king's waistcoat pocket, and sleep till the rain was over.

The king also, sometimes questioned Tom concerning his parents; and when Tom informed his majesty they were very poor people, the king led him into his treasury, and told him he should pay his friends a visit, and take with him as much money as he could carry.

Tom procured a little purse, and, putting a threepenny piece into it, with much labour and difficulty got it upon his back; and, after travelling two days and nights, arrived at his father's house.

His mother met him at the door almost tired to death, having in forty-eight hours travelled almost half a mile with a huge silver threepence upon his back. His parents were glad to see him, especially when he had brought such an amazing sum of money with him. They placed him in a walnut shell by the fire side, and feasted him for three days upon an hazel nut, which made him sick, for a whole nut generally served him a month.

Tom got well, but could not travel because it had rained: therefore his mother took him in her hand, and with one puff blew him into king Arthur's court; where Tom entertained the king, queen, and nobility at tilts and tournaments, at which he exerted himself so much that he brought on a fit of sickness, and his life was despaired of.

At this juncture the queen of the fairies came in a chariot drawn by flying mice, placed Tom by her side, and drove through the air, without stopping till they arrived at her palace; when, after restoring him to health, and permitting him to enjoy all the gay diversions of Fairy Land, the queen commanded a fair wind,

and, placing Tom before it, blew him straight to the court of king Arthur. But just as Tom should have alighted in the court-yard of the palace, the cook happened to pass along with the king's great bowl of firmity (king Arthur loved firmity), and poor Tom Thumb fell plump into the middle of it, and splashed the hot firmity into the cook's eyes.

Down went the bowl. "Oh dear; oh dear!" cried Tom; "Murder! murder!" bellowed the cook; and away ran the king's nice firmity into the kennel.

The cook was a red-faced, cross fellow, and swore to the king, that Tom had done it out of mere mischief: so he was taken up, tried, and sentenced to be beheaded. Tom hearing this dreadful sentence, and seeing a miller stand by with his mouth wide open, he took a good spring, and jumped down the miller's throat, unperceived by all, even by the miller himself.

Tom being lost, the court broke up, and away went the miller to his mill. But Tom did not leave him long at rest; he began to roll and tumble about, so that the miller thought himself bewitched, and sent for a doctor. When the doctor came, Tom began to dance and sing; the doctor was as much frightened as the miller, and sent in great haste for five more doctors, and twenty learned men.

While all these were debating upon the affair, the miller, (for they were very tedious) happened to yawn, and Tom, taking the opportunity, made another jump, and alighted on his feet, in the middle of the table.

The miller, provoked to be thus tormented by such a little creature, fell into a great passion, caught hold of Tom, and threw him out of the window, into the river. A large salmon swimming by, snapped him up in a minute.

The salmon was soon caught and sold in the market to the steward of a lord. The lord, thinking it an uncommonly fine fish, made a present of it to the king, who ordered it to be dressed immediately. When the cook cut open the salmon, he found poor Tom, and ran with him directly to the king; but the king,

being busy with state affairs, desired that he might be brought another day.

The cook resolving to keep him safely this time, as he had so lately given him the slip, clapped him into a mouse-trap, and left him to amuse himself by peeping through the wires for a whole week; when the king sent for him, forgave him for throwing down the firmity, ordered him new clothes, and knighted him.

His shirt was made of butterflies' wings,
His boots were made of chicken skins;
His coat and breeches were made with pride:
A tailor's needle hung by his side;
A mouse for a horse he used to ride.

Thus dressed and mounted, he rode a hunting with the king and nobility, who all laughed heartily at Tom and his fine prancing steed.

As they rode by a farm house one day, a cat jumped from behind the door, seized the mouse and little Tom, ran up a tree, and began to devour the mouse: however, Tom boldly drew his sword and attacked the cat, who then let him fall.

The king and his nobles seeing Tom falling, went to his assistance, and one of the lords caught him in his hat; but poor Tom was sadly scratched, and his clothes were torn by the claws of the cat.

In this condition he was carried home, when a bed of down was made for him in a little ivory cabinet.

The queen of the fairies came, and took him again to Fairy Land, where she kept him some years; and then, dressing him in bright green, sent him flying once more through the air to the earth, in the days of king Thunstone. The people flocked far and near to look at him; and the king, before whom he was carried, asked him who he was, whence he came, and where he lived? Tom answered:

"My name is Tom Thumb,
From the fairies I come.
When king Arthur shone,
This court was my home.
In me he delighted,
By him I was knighted.
Did you never hear of
Sir Thomas Thumb?"

The king was so charmed with this address, that he ordered a little chair to be made, in order that Tom might sit on his table, and also a palace of gold a span high, with a door an inch wide, for little Tom to live in. He also gave him a coach drawn by six small mice.

This made the queen angry, because she had not a new coach too: therefore, resolving to ruin Tom, she complained to the king that he had behaved very insolently to her. The king sent for him in a rage. Tom, to escape his fury, crept into an empty snail-shell, and there lay till he was almost starved; when peeping out of the shell, he saw a fine butterfly settled on the ground: he now ventured out, and, getting astride, the butterfly took wing, and mounted into the air with little Tom on his back. Away he flew from field to field, from tree to tree, till at last he flew to the king's court.

The king, queen, and nobles, all strove to catch the butterfly, but could not. At length poor Tom, having neither bridle nor saddle, slipped from his seat, and fell into a white-pot, where he was found almost drowned. The queen vowed he should be guillotined: but while the guillotine was getting ready, he was secured once more in a mouse-trap; when the cat seeing something stir, and supposing it to be a mouse, patted the trap about till she broke it, and set Tom at liberty.

Soon afterwards a spider, taking him for a fly, made at him. Tom drew his sword and fought valiantly, but the spider's poisonous breath overcame him:

He fell dead on the ground where late he had stood
And the spider suck'd up the last drop of his blood.

King Thunstone and his whole court went into mourning for little Tom Thumb. They buried him under a rose-bush, and raised a nice white marble monument over his grave, with the following epitaph:

Here lies Tom Thumb, king Arthur's knight,
Who died by spider's cruel bite.
He was well known in Arthur's court,
Where he afforded gallant sport;

He rode at tilt and tournament,
And on a mouse a hunting went;
Alive he fill'd the court with mirth,
His death to sorrow soon gave birth.
Wipe, wipe your eyes, and shake your head,
And cry, "Alas! Tom Thumb is dead."

PRINCE FATAL AND PRINCE FORTUNE.

THERE was a queen, who had two sweet pretty little boys; and a fairy, that was the queen's intimate friend, was invited to stand godmother to them, and make them some gift. "I endow the eldest," said she, "with all manner of misfortunes, till he is five-and-twenty; and I name him Fatal." At these words the queen gave a loud cry, and intreated the fairy to change her gift. "You do not know what you ask," said she to the queen; "if he does not meet with misfortunes he will be wicked."

The queen durst say no more, but begged the fairy to let her choose for her second son. "Perhaps you will choose wrong," replied the fairy; "but no matter, I am willing to grant whatever you ask me for him." "I wish," said the queen, "that he may succeed in whatever he undertakes—'tis the way for him to be perfect." "Perhaps you may be mistaken," said the fairy, "and for that reason I grant him this gift no longer than till he is five-and-twenty."

Nurses were provided for the two young princes; but the very third day the nurse of the eldest prince was taken ill of a fever: he had another, and she fell down and broke her leg: a third lost her milk as soon as prince Fatal was put to the breast: and it being spread abroad that prince Fatal was unfortunate to his nurses, nobody would suckle, or so much as come near him. The poor child was hungry, and cried, but met with no pity; at last a mean homely countrywoman, who was very poor, and had a large family of children, which she could scarcely maintain,

came and offered to bring him up, provided they would give her a large sum of money; and as the king and queen did not love prince Fatal, they gave her what she asked, and bid her take him home to her village. The youngest prince, who was named Fortune, on the contrary, throve surprisingly: his papa and mamma doted upon him, and never thought of the eldest. The wicked woman to whom they had given poor Fatal, no sooner got home, than she took off his fine swaddling-clothes, to bestow them on a son of her own about Fatal's age; and having wrapped the poor prince in an old petticoat, she carried him into a wood, and left him to be devoured by the wild beasts; but a lioness, that had three young whelps, brought him into her den, and gave him suck; which made him grow so fast and strong, that at six months he could run alone. In the mean time the nurse's son, whom she passed for the prince, died, and the king and queen were glad they had got rid of him. Fatal remained in the woods till he was two years old; when a nobleman, an officer of the court, as he was hunting, was astonished to find a lovely boy in the midst of wild beasts. He was moved to pity, took him home—and hearing that a child was wanted as a companion to play with prince Fortune, he presented Fatal to the queen.

Fortune had a master to teach him to read; but this master was charged, above all things, not to make him cry. The young prince heard this, and cried every time he took his book in hand,—so that at five years of age he could hardly tell his letters; while Fatal, on the contrary, read perfectly well, and had already made some progress in writing. To frighten the prince, his master was ordered to whip Fatal whenever Fortune neglected his lesson; so that it was in vain for Fatal to be good, and apply himself to his book,—he could not escape punishment: besides, Fortune was so ill-natured and wilful, that he used his brother very ill, though indeed he did not know he was his brother. If Fatal had an apple, or play-thing, For-

tune would snatch it away. He obliged him to be silent when he wanted to speak, and would make him talk when he wished to hold his tongue; in a word, he was a little martyr, and pitied by no one.

They lived together in this manner till their eleventh year, when the queen was amazed at her son's ignorance. "Certainly," said she, "the fairy has deceived me. I imagined my son would be the most learned that ever was, since I wished him to succeed in whatever he undertook." Accordingly she went to consult the fairy about the matter, who said to her: "Madam, you should have desired a willing mind and virtuous inclinations for your son, rather than great talents; all his endeavours are to be wicked, and your majesty is a witness of the great progress he has made." After having said this, she turned from her, and the poor queen returned to her palace in the utmost affliction.

She hastened to reprove Fortune, in order to make him better; but instead of promising amendment, he told her, that if they vexed him, he would starve himself. The queen at this, frightened out of her senses, took him upon her knee, kissed him, gave him sweetmeats, and assured him that he should not learn any thing for a whole week, if he would eat his victuals as usual.

All this time Fatal improved so much, that he was quite a wonder of learning and mildness of temper: he had been so used to be contradicted, that, in a manner, he had no will of his own; and he thought himself happy if he could but prevent the ill effects of Fortune's capricious humours: but this sad child, enraged to see that Fatal improved more than himself, could not bear the sight of him; and the tutors, to please their young master, beat poor Fatal every moment. At last this wicked boy told the queen, that he would not have Fatal live with him any longer, and that he would not eat a morsel till he was sent away; so that poor Fatal was turned into the street, no one daring to take him in, for fear of displeasing the prince.

He passed the night under a tree, half dead with cold (as it was winter) with only a bit of bread for his supper, which some good person or other had given him out of charity. As soon as it was day-light, he said to himself, "I will not stay here doing nothing, but try if I cannot get my living till I am big enough to be a soldier. I remember to have read, in history, of several common men, who have afterwards been made great generals; and, perhaps, if I behave well, I may have the same good fortune: 'tis true, I have neither father nor mother: but God himself is the father of orphans, and he that gave me a lioness for my nurse, will surely not forsake me now." Having said this, Fatal kneeled down to say his prayers, for he never missed saying them night or morning, and always, when he prayed, he fixed his eyes on the ground, with his hands lifted up and joined together, and neither turned his head this way or the other.

While Fatal was on his knees, a countryman chanced to be going by; and seeing him pray so earnestly, said he to himself, "I am sure this must be a good child; I have a great mind to have him to take care of my sheep, and God will bless me for his sake." So he waited till Fatal had ended his prayer, and then said to him: "Little boy, will you come and live with me, and mind my sheep? I will keep you, and take care of you." "With all my heart," said Fatal, "and I will do all in my power to serve you honestly." This countryman was a wealthy farmer, and had a great many servants, who wronged their master; and, indeed, so did his wife and children.

They were mightily pleased when they saw Fatal; "for," said they, "this is but a child, and we can do whatever we will with him."

One day the farmer's wife said to him, "Child, my husband is a miser, and never gives me any money; let me take a sheep, and you shall tell him the wolf ran away with it." "Madam," replied Fatal, "I would with all my heart do any thing to serve you, but I had rather die than be a thief and a liar." "You

are a fool," said she; "who will know it?" "Oh, madam," Fatal answered, "God will know it; for he sees whatever we do, and punishes those that lie and steal." At these words his mistress lost all patience; she flew upon him, beat him, and tore the hair off his head. The farmer, hearing Fatal cry, came and asked his wife, "what made her beat him in that manner?" "Why truly," said she, "because he is a glutton: the little greedy rascal has this morning eaten up a pot of cream which I was going to carry to market." "O fie," said the farmer, "I cannot bear liquorish people;" and immediately he called one of his servants, and ordered him to whip Fatal: and all that the poor boy could say to justify himself signified nothing; his mistress insisted that she saw him eat the cream,—and she was believed. After this he was sent into the fields to tend the sheep, and his mistress went to him, and said, "Well! will you give me one of the sheep now?" "No indeed," replied Fatal, "I should be very sorry to do any such thing; you may use me as you please, but you shall never make me be guilty of an untruth." So finding him resolute, this wicked woman, out of revenge, set all the other servants against him; they made him stay out late in the fields, and instead of giving him victuals like the rest, she only sent him bread and water, and, when he came home, laid to his charge all the mischief that was done in the family.

He staid a year at the farmer's; and though he lay on the ground, and was but very indifferently fed, yet he grew so strong and tall, that at thirteen years of age any one would have supposed him to be fifteen: besides, he was become so patient, that he bore all their ill usage with the utmost calmness and meekness. One day, while he was at the farm, he heard that the king of a neighbouring country was at war, and wanted soldiers. Fatal went and asked his master to let him go; and having got leave, he travelled on foot to this prince's territories, where he enlisted himself under a captain, who, though he was a great nobleman,

behaved more like a porter or a drayman than a person of quality; he swore, beat his soldiers, and cheated them of their pay,—and with this officer Fatal was more miserable than at the farmer's. He had engaged for ten years; and though he saw the greatest number of his comrades desert, yet he would never follow their example; "for, said he, "I have received money to serve ten years, and it would be wronging the king to go away before my time is expired." Notwithstanding this captain was a bad man, and used Fatal no better than the rest, yet he could not help esteeming him, because he saw that he always did his duty; and he would send him on his messages, and entrust him with money, and give him the key of his room whenever he dined abroad, or went into the country; and though he did not love reading, he had a large library, to make people believe he was a man of sense and learning; for in that country they despised an ignorant officer, and looked upon such as did not know something of books, or at least of history, as unfit for any military station of importance.

When Fatal had done his duty as a soldier, instead of going to game and drink with his comrades, he would lock himself up in the captain's room, and there endeavour to learn his profession, by reading the lives of great men, till at last he became capable of commanding an army.

He had been seven years enlisted, when his regiment was ordered to the field: his captain took him and six others, and went to reconnoitre a wood; and when they were in the midst of it, the soldiers said one to another, "Let us kill this wicked fellow, who is always caning us, and cheats us of our pay." Fatal represented the baseness of such an action, and dissuaded them from it; but instead of hearkening to him, they said they would kill him and the captain too, and immediately drew their swords. Fatal placed himself before the captain, and fought with so much bravery that he alone slew four of the soldiers. His captain seeing he owed his life to Fatal, asked his

pardon for all the wrong he had done him; and having informed the king of what had happened, Fatal was made a captain, and the king gave him a considerable pension.

Now none of the soldiers ever wanted to kill Fatal; he loved them as if they were his children, and they had the same affection for him as for a father: instead of defrauding them of their pay, he gave them money out of his own pocket, to encourage them when they behaved well; was careful and tender of them when they were sick or wounded, and never found fault with them out of caprice or ill humour. About that time a great battle was fought, and the commander in chief being slain, all the officers and soldiers fled: but Fatal cried out, that he had rather die fighting, than fly meanly like a coward; and his soldiers told him they would not forsake him; and their example had so good an effect with the others, that they all came back, ranged themselves round Fatal, and fought with such success, that the son of the king of their enemies was taken prisoner. The other king was greatly rejoiced when he heard he had gained the victory, and told Fatal, that he made him general of all his armies. Afterwards he presented him to the queen, and to the princess his daughter, who gave him their hands to kiss: but at sight of the princess, Fatal was struck motionless like a statue: she was so beautiful, that he fell in love with her to distraction; and then he was unhappy indeed, for he thought that such a one as he must have no hopes of marrying a great princess: he resolved, for that reason, to conceal his affection, and daily underwent the utmost torture. But it was much worse when he was informed that Fortune was also in love with the princess Graciosa (for that was her name), having seen her picture, and that an ambassador was arrived to ask her in marriage. Fatal was ready to die with grief; but the princess Graciosa, who knew that Fortune was a base and wicked prince, intreated her father, with such earnestness, not to force her to the match, that the ambassador was told, the princess did

not choose to marry yet. Fortune, who had never been used to be contradicted, fell into a most violent passion when they returned with the princess's answer; and his father, who could not deny him any thing, declared war against the father of Graciosa. But he was not much concerned about it; "for," said he, "while Fatal is at the head of my army, I am not at all afraid of being overcome." So, having sent for his general, he told him the affair, and bid him prepare for war. Fatal, at this, threw himself at his feet, and said, "that he was born in the dominions of prince Fortune's father, and could not take up arms against his sovereign." But the king was very angry, and threatened to put him to death if he refused to obey him; and, on the contrary, promised to give him his daughter in marriage if he defeated Fortune. This was a sad temptation to poor Fatal. However, at last he resolved to do his duty; and therefore, without saying any thing to the king, he quitted the court, and forsook all his riches, and great expectations.

Fortune, soon after, put himself at the head of the army, and took the field; but before five days were at an end, he fell ill with fatigue, for he was very delicate and tender; and having never been used to any hardships, or to take any exercise, he could not bear heat and cold; in short, every thing made him sick.

About this time, the ambassador who had been sent to demand Graciosa for Fortune, in order to make his court to the prince, told him, that he saw the little boy that had been turned out of his palace, at the court of Graciosa's father, and that it was generally reported he had promised him his daughter in marriage. Fortune, at this piece of intelligence, fell into a most terrible fit of passion; and as soon as he was recovered he set out, fully resolved to dethrone the father of Graciosa, and promised a great reward to whoever should take Fatal either dead or alive. Fortune gained several great victories, though he did not fight himself—for he was afraid of being killed—but he had able and experienced commanders. At last he

besieged the capital of the enemy, and was preparing to take it by storm, when, on the eve of the intended assault, Fatal was brought before him, bound in heavy chains (for great numbers of people had been sent in search of him). Fortune rejoiced at this opportunity of exercising his revenge, and gave orders for him to be beheaded, before they stormed the town, in sight of the enemy. That very day he gave a grand entertainment to his officers, to celebrate his birth-day, being now twenty five years complete. The besieged hearing Fatal was taken, and was to have his head struck off in an hour, resolved to deliver him or perish, for they remembered how kind he had been to them while he was their general: they asked the king's leave to sally out, and were victorious. Fortune's gift of prosperity was now over, and in his flight from the enemy he was killed. The conquerors ran to unbind Fatal; and at the same moment they saw two glittering chariots appear in the air, in one of which was seated the fairy, and in the other Fatal's father and mother, who were both fast asleep. They did not awake till just as the chariots touched the ground, and were greatly surprised to find themselves in the midst of an army. The fairy then addressing herself to the queen, and presenting Fatal to her, said, "Madam, in this hero behold your eldest son: the misfortunes he has undergone have corrected the defects of his temper, which was naturally violent and unruly; whereas Fortune, who, on the contrary, was born with excellent inclinations, has been utterly spoiled by indulgence and flattery; and God would not permit him to live longer, because he would only have grown more wicked every day he lived. He is just now killed; but to comfort you for his death, know that, impatient of ascending the throne, he was on the point of dethroning his father." The king and queen were greatly astonished, and embraced Fatal very affectionately, having heard great commendations of him. Princess Graciosa and her father were delighted with the discovery of prince Fatal's rank. He married

Graciosa, and they lived together to a good old age, perfectly happy and perfectly virtuous.

THE THREE WISHES.

There was once a man, not very rich, who had a pretty woman to his wife. One winter's evening, as they sat by the fire, they talked of the happiness of their neighbours, who were richer than they. Said the wife, "If it were in my power to have what I wish, I should soon be happier than all of them." "So should I too," said the husband; "I wish we had fairies now, and that one of them was kind enough to grant me what I should ask." At that instant they saw a very beautiful lady in their room, who told them "I am a fairy; and I promise to grant to you the three first things you shall wish; but, take care . . . . after having wished for three things, I will not grant one wish further." The fairy disappeared; and the man and his wife were much perplexed. "For my own part," said the wife, "if it is left to my choice, I know very well what I shall wish for: I do not wish yet, but I think nothing is so good as to be handsome, rich, and to be of great quality." But the husband answered, "With all these things one may be sick, fretful, and one may die young: it would be much wiser to wish for health, cheerfulness, and a long life." "But to what purpose is a long life with poverty?" says the wife: "it would only prolong our misery. In truth, the fairy should have promised us a dozen of gifts, for there is at least a dozen things which I want." "That's true," said the husband; "but let us take time; let us consider, from this time till morning, the three things which are most necessary for us, and then wish." "I'll think all night," said the wife; "meanwhile let us warm ourselves, for it is very cold." At the same time the wife took the tongs to mend the fire; and seeing there were a great

many coals thoroughly lighted, she said, without thinking on it, "Here's a nice fire, I wish we had a yard of black pudding for our supper, we could dress it easily." She had hardly said these words, when down came tumbling through the chimney a yard of black pudding. "Plague on you, greedy guts, with your black pudding!" said the husband: "here's a fine wish indeed! Now we have only two left; for my part, I am so vexed, that I wish the black pudding fast to the tip of your nose." The man soon perceived that he was sillier than his wife; for, at this second wish, up starts the black pudding, and sticks so fast to the tip of the poor wife's nose, there was no means to take it off. "Wretch that I am!" cried she; "you are a wicked man for wishing the pudding fast to my nose." "My dear," answered the husband, "I vow I did not think of it; but what shall we do? I am about wishing for vast riches, and propose to make a golden case to hide the pudding." "Not at all," answered the wife, "for I should kill myself, were I to live with this pudding dangling at my nose: be persuaded, we have still a wish to make; leave it to me, or I shall instantly throw myself out of the window." With this she ran and opened the window; but the husband, who loved his wife, called out, "Hold, my dear wife, I give you leave to wish for what you will." "Well," said the wife, "my wish is, that this pudding may drop off." At that instant the pudding dropped off; and the wife, who did not want wit, said to her husband, "The fairy has imposed upon us; she was in the right; possibly we should have been more unhappy with riches, than we are at present. Believe me, friend, let us wish for nothing, and take things as it shall please God to send them: in the mean time, let us sup upon our pudding, since that's all that remains to us of our wishes." The husband thought his wife judged right; they supped merrily, and never gave themselves further trouble about the things which they had designed to wish for.

ALADDIN;

OR, THE WONDERFUL LAMP.

ALADDIN was the son of Mustapha, a very poor tailor in one of the rich provinces of China. When the boy was old enough to learn a trade, his father took him into his own workshop; but Aladdin having been brought up in a very careless manner, loved play more than work, and neglecting his business, frequented the company of all sorts of idle boys and vagabonds. His father dying while he was yet very young, he spent his whole time in the streets, and his poor mother was obliged to spin cotton night and day, to procure sufficient of the coarsest fare for their support. She did this the more willingly, as she loved him dearly; and always promised herself that as her son grew older, he would be ashamed of his idleness, and become a worthy and industrious man.

One day as Aladdin was playing as usual amidst a whole troop of vagabond boys, a stranger passing by stood still to observe him. This stranger was a famous African magician, who having need of the assistance of some ignorant person, no sooner beheld Aladdin than he knew by his whole air, manners, and appearance, that he was an idle and good-for-nothing boy, and very fit to be made a tool of. The magician then artfully inquired of some person standing near, the name and character of Aladdin, and their answers confirmed the opinion he had already formed of his bad habits.

The stranger now pressing in among the crowd of boys, clapped his hand on Aladdin's shoulder, and said; "My good lad, art thou not the son of Mustapha, the tailor?"

"Yes, sir," said Aladdin; "but my father has been dead this long time."

"Alas!" cried the stranger, "what afflicting tidings! I am thy father's brother, child, and have

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been many years travelling into foreign countries, and now that I expected to be happy with my brother at home, I find him dead!"

Aladdin, who had never heard of any brother of his father, stood like one stupified, till his pretended uncle pulled him out two pieces of gold, and gave them to him, bidding him run home and desire his mother to get a supper ready, as he intended to spend a few hours with his beloved sister-in-law that very evening. Aladdin, having pointed out the house, hastened home with the gold and the tidings to his mother, who was no less amazed than himself: she had never heard her husband mention more than one brother, and that one was also a tailor, and had died before Aladdin was born. She could not, however, she thought, doubt the word of a gentleman that had sent her two pieces of gold, and she went joyfully to market, where she bought excellent provisions, and was cooking in her best manner when the magician knocked at the door. He entered, followed by a porter bringing all kinds of delicious fruits and sweetmeats for the dessert, and plenty of good wine. Having saluted his dear sister-in-law, as he called her, and having said a great many affectionate things of his deceased brother Mustapha, they sat down to supper, after which the magician, looking round the house, said: "My dear sister, it grieves me much to see such an appearance of poverty about you; I hope my nephew Aladdin does his duty by you? it is time that he should be able to supply you with many comforts."

At these words Aladdin hung down his head in the greatest confusion imaginable. He could not utter a syllable in his justification; on the contrary, he felt quite ashamed of himself. His mother was also silent a few moments, and then replied: "Indeed, my honoured brother, it almost breaks my heart to be obliged to tell you, that Aladdin, though now fifteen years of age, minds nothing but play; and all that I can earn, is scarcely sufficient to get us bread. I almost

despair of his amendment, and should I die, what would become of him?"

The poor old woman burst into tears, and the magician turning to Aladdin, said, "This is a sad account, nephew; but it is never too late to mend. You must think of getting your own living, and I will assist you to the very utmost of my power. What think you of keeping a shop?" Aladdin was overjoyed at this proposition, for he thought there was very little labour in keeping a shop; and he told his uncle he had a greater inclination to that business than any other. "Well," said the stranger, "I will keep my promise, and you shall have a shop well-stocked with all sorts of merchandize. To-morrow morning I will take you with me, and clothe you handsomely, and then we will look about for a proper situation."

Aladdin's mother fell on her knees to thank the magician for his kindness to her son, and after he had taken his leave, the mother and son sat up together the greater part of the night, talking of the shop, the uncle, and Aladdin's new clothes.

The next morning early the magician came for Aladdin, and carried him to a great warehouse, where all sorts of clothes were sold ready made. Aladdin was presently equipped in a neat suit, for which his uncle paid liberally. He then led the boy through the principal streets of the city, pointing out to him the finest shops and many rarities, till they came to the extremity of the town. As it was a fine day the magician proposed they should continue their walk; and they passed through the public gardens, Aladdin becoming more and more delighted every instant with the fine things he saw, and the conversation of his uncle, who at length invited him to sit down beside a beautiful fountain, and regale himself with some cakes and fruit he had purposely brought with him.

Aladdin having feasted heartily on these dainties, they rose up, and pursued their walk, crossing innumerable gardens and fine meadows, the magician all the while telling a number of diverting stories, till

they arrived at the entrance of a narrow valley, bounded on each side by lofty and barren mountains. "Dear uncle," cried Aladdin, "where are we going now? See, we have left all the pretty gardens a long way behind us; pray let us go back, pray let us make haste from this frightful place."

"No, no," said the magician, seizing hold of Aladdin's arm, "no going back again at present. I will show you more extraordinary things than any you have seen yet, and what no person ever saw before." Aladdin followed his uncle still farther into the valley, till they seemed to be surrounded with high and black mountains, and had lost all view of the country behind them. Suddenly the magician stood still, and in a rough tone of voice, perfectly unlike his former mode of speaking, commanded Aladdin to gather together some loose sticks for a fire. Aladdin obeyed trembling, and when he had collected a large heap, the magician set them on fire. Presently the blaze rose high, and the magician threw some powder into the midst of the fire, and pronounced some mystical words, which Aladdin did not understand. Instantly they were surrounded by a thick smoke: the earth shook beneath their feet, the mountain burst asunder, and discovered a broad flat stone with a large brass ring fixed in the middle of it.

Aladdin was now so exceedingly terrified, that he was going to run away, but the magician perceiving his design, gave him such a box on the ear, that he knocked him down. Poor Aladdin got up again, and with tears running down his cheeks, said, "What have I done, uncle, that you should use me so cruelly?"

"Child," said the magician in a kinder tone of voice, "I did not mean to strike thee so severely. But thou shouldst not think of running away from me, when I only brought thee hither to do thee service. Know, Aladdin, that under this stone lies hid a treasure, that will make you richer than the greatest monarch on the earth, and of which I alone know how

to make you master." Aladdin forgot his box on the ear when he heard of the treasure, and he eagerly promised to do whatever he was desired to perform.

"Come then," said the magician, "take hold of that brass ring, and lift up that stone."

When the stone was pulled up, there appeared a deep hollow cave in the earth, and a narrow flight of steps. "Go, child," said the magician, "go down into that cavern. At the bottom of these steps, you will find a door open, which will lead you into a large vaulted place, divided into three great halls, full of silver and gold coin. Pass through them quickly, for if you touch any thing they contain, you will meet with instant death. At the end of the third hall, you will see a fine garden; cross the garden by a path that will bring you upon a terrace, where you will see a lighted lamp, standing in a niche. Take the lamp down, and put out the light, and when you have thrown away the wick and poured out the oil, put the lamp into your bosom, and bring it to me, If you wish for any of the fruit of the garden, you may gather as much as you please." Having said this, the magician drew a ring off his finger, and putting it on Aladdin's, told him it was a preservative against all evil, if he faithfully obeyed his directions. "Go down boldly, my son," he added, "and we shall both be rich and happy all the rest of our lives."

Aladdin jumped into the cave, went down the steps and found the three halls just as the magician had described them. He went through them without touching any thing; crossed the garden without stopping, took down the lamp from the niche, threw out the wick and the liquor, and as the magician had desired him, put the lamp into his bosom. As he came down from the terrace he was greatly surprised to observe that the branches of the trees were loaded, as he thought, with beautiful pieces of glass of all colours that dazzled his eyes with their lustre; and though he would rather have found peaches, figs, and grapes, yet these pieces of coloured glass were so very pretty

that he could not help filling his pockets, and two purses his uncle had given him, with them. He likewise wrapped as many as he could in the skirts of his coat, and thus encumbered made haste to return to his uncle. The magician was expecting him at the mouth of the cave with extreme impatience. "Pray, uncle," said Aladdin, when he came to the top of the stairs, "give me your hand to assist me in getting out."

"Yes, yes, but give me the lamp first," said the magician. I cannot, dear uncle, till I am out of this place," replied Aladdin.

"Wretch!" roared the magician in a fury, "deliver it this instant."

"No, I will not," said Aladdin, "till you have helped me out of the cave."

The magician's eyes flashed fire. "Villain, thou shalt repent thy obstinacy!" he exclaimed, stretching out his arm to strike Aladdin, when some powder he still held in his hand, dropped into the fire; the rock shook with thunder, the great stone moved again into its place, and Aladdin remained buried alive in this cavern of treasure. In vain he cried and wrung his hands; his cries could not be heard; the doors of the halls were closed by the same enchantment that had closed the rock, and he was left to perish in total darkness.

Aladdin remained in this state two days without tasting food, and on the third day looked upon death as inevitable. Clasping his hands with agony, to think of his own destruction and his mother's sorrow, he chanced to press the ring the magician had put on his finger, and immediately an enormous genie rose out of the earth, and said: "What wouldst thou have with me? I am ready to obey thy commands—I, and the other slaves of that ring."

Aladdin, trembling with affright, said, "Deliver me, I beseech thee, from this place, if thou art able." He had no sooner spoke than the earth opened, and he found himself on the very spot where he had been brought by the magician. He remembered the way he had come and made all the haste he could to get

back to the city; but when he reached his mother's threshold, joy to find himself at home again, and the fatigue he had undergone, overcame his strength, and he fainted at the door.

When Aladdin had recovered from his fit, and had been embraced a thousand times by his mother, he hastened to relate to her all that had befallen him. "Ah! my son," she cried, "I see clearly now, that that man was no brother of thy father's. He was a wicked enchanter, that meant to make thee useful to him in some bad purpose or other. Let it be a warning to thee, Aladdin, to work for thy own subsistence, and then thou wilt not want the assistance of deceitful strangers or pretended uncles.

Aladdin having promised his mother to attend to her good advice, intreated her to bring him some food, as he was almost starved. Alas! the poor old woman had neither food nor money in the house, for while her son had been absent she had neglected her spinning to run up and down the streets in search of him.

"Well mother," said Aladdin, "do not mind it. Pray dry your tears, and reach me the lamp I put on the shelf just now, and I will go and sell it. The old woman took down the lamp, and thinking it would sell better if it were cleaner, she began to rub it with sand. Instantly a hideous genie stood before her, and said in a voice like thunder, "What wouldst thou have? I am ready to obey thy commands—I, and all the other slaves of that lamp.

Aladdin, having seen the former genie, was less frightened than his mother, who fainted away, while he said boldly, "I am hungry, bring me something to eat." The genie disappeared, and presently returned with twelve large plates of silver, full of the most savory meats, six white loaves, two bottles of wine, and two silver drinking cups. Having placed them all in order on a table, he vanished.

Aladdin, sprinkling some water on his mother, intreated her, as she recovered from her swoon, to arise and eat of the goodly banquet.

"What," cried the old woman, looking round in amazement, "has the sultan been informed of our poverty, and sent us all these fine things from his own table?"

"Come, mother," replied Aladdin, "let us eat now, and talk after we have done dinner." Accordingly they wasted no time, and having dined plentifully, set aside enough to serve them for two days more.

On hearing that the genie had provided their repast, Aladdin's mother besought him to sell the lamp, and to have nothing to do with genies; but Aladdin was resolved not to part with the lamp, which he perceived to be of infinite value, both from the service he had just received, and from the eagerness of the magician to get possession of it.

He assured his mother, however, that he would never use it but in a case of great necessity, but would endeavour to get some employment, or learn some trade. At night they were greatly surprised to see the bright light that issued from the heap of pieces of coloured glass that Aladdin had laid in a corner of the beaufet; but though they were astonished at it, they were not in the least aware that instead of pieces of glass, they were in reality jewels of immense value, and the mother and son went as quietly to sleep as if no such treasure had been in their possession.

On the following morning Aladdin sold one of his silver plates to a jew, to purchase a few necessaries that were wanting in their dwelling. He would have sold another to buy his mother new clothes; but she would wear none that she had not earned with her own labour. Aladdin next went about among the merchants and shopkeepers seeking employment. At first they were afraid to trust him; but seeing his sober deportment, they at length employed him in trifling errands, and by degrees he gained a very comfortable livelihood, and was respected for his industry and good conduct.

One day while Aladdin was walking through the city, he heard a proclamation commanding all the people to retire into their houses, as the beautiful

princess Balroudour, whom no one must look upon, was coming to the public baths. Aladdin was a long way from home; people were running this way and that, and he was quite at a loss where to go; and hearing the drums and trumpets that preceded, the princess approaching, he ran into a large hall and hid himself behind a folding door. Now it happened that this very hall was the entrance to the baths; and as soon as the princess passed the gate she pulled off her veil, thinking she was only surrounded by her own slaves. There was a crevice in the door, which permitted Aladdin to see the princess as well as those beside her; and her uncommon beauty made so deep an impression on him, that he could think of nothing else for many days afterwards, and neglected his employment and his meals. At length he could not conceal his love any longer. "Mother," said he, "I love the princess Balroudour to distraction, and you must demand her for me in marriage of the sultan."

The old woman left off spinning to gaze upon her son, who she concluded to be mad; but upon his repeating that he was resolved to be the husband of the lovely princess, she could not forbear bursting into a loud laugh, and bid him remember he was the son of Mustapha the tailor, and no prince or governor, who alone could pretend to be the son-in-law of the sultan.

"Mother," said Aladdin, "I am not so poor as you imagine. Since I have frequented the jewellers' shops I have learnt to know the value of those things I used to call pieces of glass; it is with those things that I intend to purchase the good-will of the sultan."

Aladdin's mother laughed again, and refused to hear any thing more of such foolish projects.

Poor Aladdin meanwhile pined almost to death, and when his mother saw him nearly at the last gasp, she promised she would go to the sultan if that would restore him to health. Aladdin, overjoyed at her consent, sent her to borrow a large china dish, which

he filled with the finest jewels from his neap, and having tied it up carefully in two napkins, the poor old woman set out for the sultan's palace with a heavy heart, fearing she should be punished for her presumption. Being come to the divan, where the sultan was administering justice, she placed herself opposite the throne, and waited in silence till her turn should come to be called forward. When the court was nearly empty the vizier bade her approach. She instantly fell on her knees, and besought the sultan's pardon, who commanded her to speak on and fear nothing. She then related the story of her son's falling in love with the princess, and the advice she had given him, stopping at every three words to intreat the sultan's forgiveness, who only smiled, and asked what was tied up in the napkin. She presented the dish to the vizier, who handed it to the sultan.

When the dish was uncovered the sultan actually started with surprise, for he had never before seen jewels of such a size or lustre. "Your son," he said, "can be no ordinary person if he can afford to make such presents as these. The vizier now approached, and whispered something to the sultan, who nodded, and then turning to Aladdin's mother, said, "Go, tell your son that he shall have the princess Balroudour in marriage as soon as he sends me forty basons of massy gold filled with such jewels as these, carried by forty black slaves, who shall be led by forty white slaves, all magnificently clothed. Go, hasten home, and declare my will to your son."

Aladdin's mother retired in the greatest grief and consternation. She was surprised to see that her son only smiled at the sultan's demand; she concluded therefore he had already got the better of his foolish passion, and went joyfully to market to buy provisions for their dinner. As soon as she was gone Aladdin rubbed the lamp, and the genie stood before him, whom he commanded to bring the basons of gold, the jewels, and the black slaves and white, as the sultan had required; and presently the house was

filled with this splendid train of slaves, most magnificently dressed, bearing basons of massy gold, filled with the rarest jewels.

When Aladdin's mother returned from market, she trembled to see these wonderful things; but as her son intreated her to make haste back to the divan, she stayed to ask no questions, but put herself at the head of the procession, which drew after it all the idle and curious people of the city. When she entered the divan she prostrated herself at the foot of the throne, and said, "Sire, my son Aladdin is sensible that this present he sends your majesty is much below the worth of the princess Balroudour; but he hopes your majesty will accept it as a token of his submission to your royal commands."

The sultan was not able immediately to reply, he was so taken up with the beauty of the slaves, who looked like so many kings, and whose habits were even richer than his own; at length he said, "Go, bring your son hither, that I may bestow on him the hand of my daughter."

Aladdin now again summoned the genie of the lamp, who transported him invisibly to a fine bath of rose water. Afterwards he was dressed by the hands of the genie in the most sumptuous apparel. A horse, that surpassed the best in the sultan's stables, was provided for him, whose saddle and housings were of pure gold. He had a train of slaves ready, finely mounted, and bearing magnificent presents for the princess. Another set of slaves were ready to attend on Aladdin's mother, for whom they had brought suitable dresses, and an equipage.

Aladdin mounted his horse, and so great a change had the care of the genie made in his appearance, that no one knew him to be poor Aladdin, the tailor's son, but took him for some mighty prince, who had been accustomed to the same grandeur and magnificence from the hour of his birth. When the sultan beheld him he was no less surprised at his good mien, fine shape, and dignity of demeanour, than at the elegance

and costliness of his apparel. Aladdin would have thrown himself at the feet of the sultan, but was prevented by the sultan's embracing him and seating him on his right hand.

They conversed together during some hours, and the sultan was so entirely charmed with his good sense and modesty, that he proposed to marry the young lovers that very evening. To this, however, Aladdin objected, saying it was necessary that he should first build a palace to receive his princess; and he intreated the sultan would grant him a piece of ground opposite the gates of the royal palace for this purpose. The sultan readily agreed to this proposal, and they separated—Aladdin returning home to employ the genie of the lamp to build a palace, the sultan retiring to his daughter's apartment, to congratulate her on the happiness that awaited her.

When the sultan arose the next morning, how great was his amazement to behold opposite to his own, a palace of the purest architecture, and half the inhabitants of the city already gathered in crowds to gaze on this wonder. He was presently informed that Aladdin waited to conduct his majesty to his new palace.

The sultan was more and more amazed at every step; for the walls were built of wedges of gold and silver, and the ornaments were of jasper, agate, and porphyry, intermixed with diamonds, rubies, emeralds, amethysts, and every thing that was most rare and beautiful. The treasury was full of gold coin, the offices filled with domestics, the stables with the finest horses and carriages, with grooms and equerries in splendid liveries. In short, the sultan acknowledged that the wealth of all his dominions was not equal to the purchase of such costly rarities, as the hall, with twenty-four windows, of Aladdin's palace could produce.

Aladdin and the princess were speedily married and lived very happily; but the fame of his magnificence spread to all corners of the world, and at length reached Africa and the ears of the magician who was at no

loss to know the source of Aladdin's riches. Resolved to possess himself of the wonderful lamp, he disguised his person, and travelled to China. Being come to the city where Aladdin lived, he bought a number of beautiful lamps, and when he knew that Aladdin was gone out to hunt with the sultan, he went under the windows of the apartments belonging to the princess, crying: "Who will exchange old lamps for new?"

The slaves attending on the princess all ran to the windows, laughing at the odd cry. "Oh!" said one of the slaves, "do let us try if the fool means what he says; there is an ugly old lamp laying on the cornice of the hall of twenty-four windows; we will put a new one in its place if the old fellow will really give us one." The princess agreed to this proposal, and away ran one of the slaves with the lamp to the magician, who willingly gave her the best he had among his new ones, and retired to enjoy the triumph of his malicious revenge.

As soon as night arrived, he summoned the genie of the lamp, and commanded him to transport him, the palace, and the princess to the remotest corner of Africa. The order was instantly obeyed.

It is impossible to describe the confusion, grief, and dismay of the sultan, when he arose the next morning, to find the beautiful palace vanished, and his daughter lost. All the people of the city ran in terror through the streets, and a number of soldiers were sent in search of Aladdin, who was not returned from hunting.

Aladdin, on hearing that his palace and his wife were gone, fainted away, and was soon after dragged before the sultan like a criminal, and would have been beheaded had not the sultan been afraid to enrage the people, who were all of them fond of Aladdin. "Go, wretch," cried the angry sultan, "I grant thee thy life; but if ever thou appearest before me again, thy death shall be the consequence, unless in forty days thou bringest me tidings of my daughter."

Aladdin left the palace, not knowing whither to turn his steps. At length he stopped at a brook to

wash his eyes, that smarted with the tears he had shed: as he stooped to the water his foot slipped, and catching hold of a piece of rock to save himself from falling, he pressed the magician's ring, which he still wore on his finger, and the genie of the ring appeared before him, saying: "What wouldst thou have?"—"Oh, powerful genie!" cried Aladdin, "bring my palace back to the place where yesterday it stood!"

"What you command," answered the genie, "is not in my power, I am only the genie of the ring; you must address yourself to the genie of the lamp for that service."

"Then I command thee," said Aladdin, "to transport me to the place where it stands now." Instantly Aladdin found himself beside his own palace, which stood in a meadow not far from a great city; the princess Balroudour was then walking backward and forward in her own chamber, weeping for the loss of her beloved Aladdin. Happening to approach the window, she beheld him under it, and making a sign to him not to betray his joy, she sent a slave to bring him in by a private door. The princess and her husband having mingled their tears and embraces, Aladdin said: "Tell me, my princess, instantly, what is become of an old lamp I left on the cornice of the hall of four-and-twenty windows?" The princess related the manner in which her slaves had exchanged it for a new one, and added, that she feared all her misfortunes were owing to that lamp, since she observed that the tyrant, in whose power she was, always carried that very lamp in his bosom. Aladdin, convinced that it was his old enemy the magician, who had got possession of the lamp, contrived with the princess means of getting it from him.

Aladdin went into the city, disguised as a slave, and procured a powder, that on being swallowed, would instantly cause a death-like sleep, and the princess invited the magician to sup with her. As she had never been so condescending to him before, he was

quite delighted with her kindness; and while they were at table, she ordered a slave to bring two cups of wine, which she had herself prepared; and after pretending to taste the one she held in her hand, she asked the magician to change cups, as was the custom, she said, between lovers in China. He joyfully seized her goblet, and drinking it all at a draught, fell senseless on the floor.

Aladdin was at hand to snatch the lamp from his bosom, and having thrown the traitor out upon the grass of the meadow, the genie was summoned, and in an instant the princess, the palace, and all that it contained, were transported to their original station. The very morning of the return of Aladdin's palace, the sultan had risen by break of day to indulge his sorrows; when, to his unspeakable joy, he beheld the vacancy filled up. He summoned his guards, and hastened to embrace his daughter; and during a whole week nothing was to be seen but illuminations, fire-works, balls, and entertainments throughout the city, in honour of Aladdin's safe return.

Aladdin did not forget now to carry the lamp always about him, and things went on very well for some time. But the magician having slept off his potion, and found the lamp and the palace gone, once more set out for China. Being come to the end of his journey, he went to the cell of a holy woman, named Fatima, who was renowned through the city for her sanctity, and her cure of the head-ache.—The cruel magician having killed the poor old woman and buried her, dressed himself in her garments, and having stained his face and eye-brows exactly to resemble the colour of her's, he walked out into the city, and counterfeited so well, that every body believed him to be the holy woman, and followed him in crowds begging his blessing. At length he approached the palace, and the princess hearing that Fatima was in the street, sent her slaves to invite the holy woman into the palace.

The pretended Fatima was kindly entertained by

the princess, who led her through the apartments of the palace, and shewed her the magnificent hall of twenty-four windows. "Princess," said the false Fatima, "forgive my offering my opinion; but I think if a roc's egg was hung up in the middle of the dome, this hall would have no parallel in the four quarters of the world, and your palace would be the wonder of the universe."

"My good Fatima," said the princess, "what sort of a bird is a roc, and where may one get an egg?"

"Princess," replied Fatima, "it is a bird of prodigious size, which inhabits the top of Mount Caucasus: the architect that built your palace can get you one."

The pretended Fatima would now have withdrawn, but the princess insisted on her continuing in the palace some days. That very evening Aladdin, who had been absent on a journey, returned home sooner than was expected, and found the princess somewha. melancholy; he begged to know the cause, and she confessed she was wishing she could have the dome of the grand hall ornamented with a roc's egg. "Beautiful princess," said Aladdin, "your wish shall be gratified." He instantly withdrew to the hall of four-and-twenty windows, and calling for the genie of the lamp, he said, "Good genie, I command thee in the name of the lamp, to hang up a roc's egg in the centre of this dome."

The genie, on hearing these words, uttered so loud and terrible a cry, that the palace shook with the noise, and Aladdin had nearly fallen to the ground. "What!" said he, "after every thing I and my fellow slaves have done to serve thee, dost thou command me to bring my master, and hang him up in the midst of this dome? This attempt deserves my utmost vengeance, and I would reduce your palace into a heap of ashes, but that I know you are not the contriver of this wish. The African magician is now under your roof disguised as the holy woman Fatima, whom he has murdered. Go punish his

crimes, or your own destruction is inevitable." The genie vanished, and left Aladdin in the utmost agitation. He was however not long in deliberating on the means of destroying his enemy. He went to his wife's apartment, and throwing himself upon a sofa, complained of a violent head-ache. The princess, delighted with the idea of being able immediately to relieve her husband's pain, exclaimed, that the good Fatima was in the palace, and then ran to bring her.

The pretended Fatima came with one hand lifted up as if to bless Aladdin, while the other grasped a dagger concealed in the folds of her garment. Aladdin kept a watchful eye on her, and as soon as she came near him, seized the hand that held the dagger, and stabbed the traitor to the heart.

The princess began to scream and tear her hair with grief, to think her husband had killed the holy Fatima; till Aladdin, snatching off the hood of the cloak, shewed her the wicked magician concealed beneath. Her grief was then changed to joy, that they had escaped his wicked snares; and shortly after, the sultan dying without a son, Aladdin and the princess Balroudour ascended the throne, reigned together many years, and left behind them a numerous, virtuous, and illustrious progeny.

NOURJAHAD.

AN EASTERN TALE.

SCHEMZEDDIN was in his twenty-second year when he ascended the throne of Persia. His wisdom and extraordinary endowments rendered him the delight of his people, and filled them with expectations of a happy and glorious reign.

Of all the persons who surrounded the monarch's throne, none appeared to possess the sultan's favour and confidence like Nourjahad, the son of Namarand. Nourjahad was about the same age with Schemzeddin, and had been bred up with him from his infancy.

To a very engaging countenance and person, Nourjahad added a liveliness of temper, and an agreeable manner of address, that won the affections of every one who approached him. The sultan loved him affectionately, and the people expected to see him elevated to the highest pinnacle of honour.

Schemzeddin was indeed desirous of promoting his favourite; but notwithstanding his attachment to him, the monarch would not appoint Nourjahad to the rank of minister of state, till he had consulted some old lords about the court, who had been the constant friends and able counsellors of the late sultan, his father. Accordingly, having called them into his closet one morning, he proposed the matter to them, and desired their opinion; but he perceived that these grave and prudent men disapproved the choice he had made of Nourjahad, to fill an office so important in its management to the welfare of the state.

They accused him of avarice, and a boundless love of pleasure; and the sultan dismissed them with evident marks of displeasure; but he said to himself:—

"It is the interest of Nourjahad to conceal his faults from me, and my attachment may blind me to his defects. I will probe Nourjahad's soul. From himself, I will judge of himself, and if he passes through the trial unsullied, he shall be second only to myself in the empire."

Shortly after the sultan invited Nourjahad to walk with him one evening by moonlight, in the garden of the seraglio. Schemzeddin leaned on the shoulder of his favourite, as they rambled from one delicious scene to another; rendered still more enchanting by the silence of the night, the mild lustre of the moon, and the fragrance which arose from a thousand odoriferous shrubs. "Tell me, Nourjahad," said the sultan, carelessly throwing himself upon a bank of violets, and inviting his favourite to sit near, "tell me truly what would satisfy thy wishes, if thou wert certain of possessing all thou couldst desire?"

Nourjahad remained some time silent, till the sul-

tan with an affected smile of levity repeated the question.

"My wishes," answered the favourite, "are boundless. I should desire to be possessed of inexhaustible riches, and I should also desire to have my life prolonged to eternity."

"Wouldst thou then," said Schemzeddin, "forego the hopes of Paradise?"

"I would," answered the favourite, "make a paradise of this earthly globe, by the variety of my pleasures, and take my chance for the other afterwards."

"Begone!" said the sultan, starting from his seat, "thou art no longer worthy of my love. I thought to have promoted thee to the highest honours, but such a sordid wretch does not deserve to live. Ambition, though a vice, is the vice of great minds; but avarice, and an insatiable thirst for pleasure, degrades a man below the brute."

Thus saying he was about to depart, but Nourjahad falling on his knees, and holding the sultan's robe, said:—"Let not my lord's indignation be kindled against his slave, for a few light words, which fell from him only in sport. I swear to thee, my prince, by our holy prophet Mahomet, that my real desire for wealth extends no farther than to be enabled to procure the sober enjoyments of life; and as for length of years, let not mine be prolonged a day beyond that in which I can be serviceable to my sovereign and my country."

"It is not," replied the sultan mildly, "for mortal eyes to penetrate into the secret recesses of thy heart. Thou hast called our great Prophet to witness thy oath; remember, God thou canst not deceive, though me thou mayest."

Schemzeddin then left him, without waiting his reply, and Nourjahad retired to his own house, which joined to the sultan's palace.

He passed the rest of the night in traversing his chamber, regretting his imprudence, and tormenting himself with apprehensions of his disgrace. The

next day he was unable to quit his apartment, and at night, wearied with his anxieties, he threw himself on his couch, and fell into a deep sleep, from which he was roused by a voice that said—"Nourjahad! Nourjahad! awake, and possess the secret wishes of thy soul."

He started from his couch, and beheld a youth of more than mortal beauty, whose shining hair was encircled with a wreath of flowers, that shed around him the most fragrant perfumes.

"Fear not!" said the youth, I am thy guardian genie. I have power to grant thy wishes, be they what they may. Wouldst thou be restored to the favour and confidence of the sultan, thy master; or wouldst thou rather see the wish accomplished, which thou breathed last night to Schemzeddin in the gardens of the royal palace?"

Nourjahad bowed his head, and answered: "Disguise to thee, O son of Paradise, were vain and fruitless. If I dissembled to Schemzeddin, it was to reinstate myself in his good opinion, by whose favour alone I have been able to exist; but my heart pants to possess that wish I declared to the sultan, and that alone."

"Rash mortal," replied the youth, "reflect once more before you receive the fatal boon; for, once granted, you will wish in vain to have it recalled."

"What can I have to fear?" demanded Nourjahad, "when I am possessed of endless riches and immortality."

"Your own passions," replied the youth.

"I will submit to all the evils they may inflict,' said he, "give me but the means of gratifying them in their full extent."

"Take thy wish!" cried the genius, with a look of disdain and discontent. "The contents of this phia bestows immortality upon thee, and to-morrow's sun beholds thee richer than all the kings of the east."

Nourjahad eagerly stretched his hand to receive a vessel of gold, enriched with precious stones.

"Hold!" cried the youth, there is one condition annexed to this dangerous gift. You will live to eternity, but you will be subject to fits of deep sleep, which will last for months, for years, nay, perhaps, for a whole century.

"Horrible!" cried Nourjahad.

"It is worth considering," said the genius; "decide not too hastily; for if thou pervertest the power thou wilt possess, and incline thy heart to vice, thou wilt be punished with this suspension of thy faculties, which will last in proportion to the error thou hast committed."

"I accept the condition," cried Nourjahad, "for though I mean to enjoy all the pleasures of life, I will never commit any crimes—and after all, what is twenty, thirty, or even fifty years of sleep, for a man who is to live to all eternity."

"Here then," said the genius, "swallow this liquid, and possess thy wish!"

Nourjahad applied the vessel to his lips, and drank a liquid so potent in its effect, that he fell back in a temporary trance, and when he again opened his eyes, the apparition had vanished, and his chamber was in total darkness.

He would have considered all that had passed as a dream, had he not still held the empty golden vessel in his hand, which he now placed under his pillow, and, filled with delightful expectations, he again composed himself to sleep.

The sun was in its meridian when he awoke the next day; but how great was his surprise, how high his transport, to see that his chamber was filled with large urns, containing gold and silver coin, diamonds, and all kinds of precious stones: on one of them was placed a scroll of paper containing these words:

"Thy days are without number, thy riches inexhaustible, thy prudence be thy guard! In thy garden is a subterraneous cavern, where thou mayest conceal thy treasure. I have marked the spot. Farewell!"

Nourjahad having examined with increasing delight

his treasures, hastened to the garden. In a remote corner near the ruins of an ancient temple, he perceived a key of polished steel, hanging to a scarf of white taffety, and suspended at the branch of a tree. He was not long before he discovered a door behind the ruin, and opening it with the key, he descended by a few steps into a spacious cavern.

Nourjahad, glad to have so convenient a place in which to deposit his treasure, returned to the house, and ordered that no visitors should be admitted to him. This one day he resolved to pass in laying down plans of various pleasures to be enjoyed for ages to come.

Before the visit of the genie, Nourjahad imagined, that if he had these boundless riches, he should employ them to notable and generous purposes, but he had deceived himself; there exists a wide difference between the fancied and actual possession of wealth, for Nourjahad, now absorbed in selfishness, thought only of the indulgence of his own appetites.

"My temper," said he, as he lay stretched at his ease upon a sofa, "does not incline me to take much trouble. I shall not aspire to high employments about the court, but I will have the finest palaces and gardens, the most splendid equipages, the most beautiful slaves in my seraglio, and the temperance of the sultan Schemzeddin shall be no pattern for me. Every corner of the earth shall be searched for dainties to supply my table, and bands of the choicest musicians shall entertain me while I enjoy my sumptuous banquets. Then no fear of surfeits—I will eat and drink to excess, and bid defiance to death."

Here Nourjahad started, for he remembered the genius had not promised to secure him against the attacks of pain and sickness.

"Perhaps," said he after a pause, "that advantage may be included. Besides, a little temporary pain now and then will be nothing: I shall the more enjoy my returning health. But I recollect that Schemzeddin used to talk of wisdom, and intellectual pleasures, as being the greatest enjoyment. Well, I can purchase

those too; I will have half a score wise and learned men always at my command to entertain me with their conversation, and when I am weary of living in this country, I will make a tour of the earth, and see every curiosity the habitable world contains."

For three whole days Nourjahad was taken up with considering what scheme of pleasure he should begin with, and having entirely forgot to pay his court to Schemzeddin, the monarch on the fourth day was so offended at his absence, that he sent one of his officers to forbid him his presence for ever. "Tell him, however," said the sultan, "that in remembrance of my former favour, I will allow him one thousand crowns a year for his support, and grant him the house he now lives in."

Nourjahad received this message with great indifference; not daring, however, to shew any mark of disrespect, he answered, "Tell my lord the sultan, that I would not have been thus long without throwing myself at his feet, but I was hastily sent for to visit a dying friend at some leagues distance, who has made me his heir. The thousand crowns, therefore, my royal master will be pleased to bestow on some one who wants them more than I do; but the house I will thankfully accept, and it will daily remind me, that Schemzeddin does not utterly detest his slave."

Nourjahad gave this turn to his acceptance of the house, which it would have been very inconvenient to have retired from, as he had already deposited his treasures in the subterraneous cavern of the garden. Thus, he had already, in two instances, departed from the truth, in consequence of his ill-judged indulgence of unreasonable wishes.

He now bent his thoughts wholly on pleasure. He employed one Hasem, the principal of his domestics, to regulate his household, and furnish him with every gratification of costly furniture, magnificent habits, and a princely retinue. His slaves were all perfectly beautiful, and his table was daily furnished with the most expensive and rarest products of every country.

A few men of science and learning were invited to his house, for the instruction and entertainment of his leisure hours; but leisure hours he had none, for he was either gratifying his appetites, or surfeited with excess.

Among the beauties of his seraglio he had selected a young maid, so perfect in loveliness, and so highly accomplished, that he gave her his entire affections, and made her his bride. By Mandana he was equally beloved, and longing to unbosom himself to some one on whose fidelity he could rely, he disclosed to her the marvellous story of his destiny. His mind thus relieved of its secret, he had not one anxious thought behind, and plunged at once into a sea of luxurious enjoyments. He forgot his duty towards God, and neglected all the laws of the prophet Mahomet. The cries of distress, or the sufferings of poverty, no longer melted his heart. Becoming daily more sensual and avaricious, his boundless wealth seemed scarcely sufficient to gratify his wishes. He soon grew idle and effeminate, and the pride he took in displaying the pomp of his retinue to the wondering eyes of the people, was the only motive that incited him to action.

He thus continued to wallow in voluptuousness for three months uninterruptedly, when one day, as he was preparing to set out for a beautiful villa he had purchased for a rural retirement, the officer who had forbade his appearance at court, arrived from the sultan. "I am sorry, my lord," said he, "to be a second time a messenger of ill tidings; but the sultan, hearing of the extraordinary splendour and magnificence in which you live, would needs know whence you derive your wealth, and has commanded me to conduct you to his presence."

Nourjahad was exceedingly startled at this unexpected summons, but he dared not dispute the sultan's orders; and he followed the officer to the palace of Schemzeddin. He entered trembling, and prostrated himself at the foot of the throne.

"Whence is it, Nourjahad," said Schemzeddin, "that I am compelled by the murmurs of my people,

to inquire into the source of the extraordinary wealth that thou hast displayed. Who was the friend that bequeathed thy riches to thee, and what are their amount?"

Nourjahad, terrified at the dangers that threatened him, fell at the feet of the sultan, and related the visit of the genie, and its miraculous consequences. But the sultan sternly commanded him from his presence, and likewise ordered that he should be conducted back to his own house, from whence he was not to stir, without permission from the sultan, on pain of death.

Nourjahad, filled with grief and vexation, was led like a prisoner back to his own palace, and had the mortification to find the gates of his dwelling surrounded by the sultan's guards.

He retired to his closet, repenting that he had made so imprudent a choice. "If," said he, "I had asked the genie to restore me to Schemzeddin's favour, he would have advanced me to the highest offices of the state; I should have enjoyed my liberty, and have been respected; but now I am only envied and hated; and of what use is my wealth, since I am confined to one house? Unfortunate Nourjahad, where are all thy schemes of felicity?"

In two or three days he was more reconciled to his lot, and ordered a sumptuous banquet to be prepared; his musicians were commanded to exercise their utmost art to soothe his mind with all the enchanting powers of harmony; his apartments were illuminated with thousands of torches, composed of fragrant spices, and shedding delightful odours, and his slaves decked in the most costly jewels: himself attired in robes such as the kings of Persia used to wear, was seated under a canopy of silver tissue. With all these splendid preparations, Nourjahad sat down to his banquet unsatisfied and dispirited, but resolved to elevate himself in some way: he forgot the laws of the religion he professed, which enjoins sobriety, for the historian who relates his life, affirms that Nourjahad that night, for the first time in his life,—got drunk.

In this state, he was carried insensible to bed, and when he next awoke from a slumber, he missed his beloved Mandana, and called aloud for his slaves, but no one answered. Being very passionate, he jumped out of bed, and ran into the anti-chamber, yet found none of his slaves in waiting: enraged at this he was about to descend the stairs, when a female slave appeared, who no sooner perceived him, than she gave a shriek, and was going to run away, but Nourjahad seizing her roughly by the arm, commanded her to go and tell Mandana that he desired to see her.

"Alas! my lord," said the slave, "I wish she were in a condition to come to you."

"What do you mean," cried he, "I hope she is not sick? I am sure she went to bed in perfect health last night!"

"Last night, my lord! alas, alas!"

"Wretch!" exclaimed Nourjahad, "what do you mean?"

"My lord, Mandana has been dead more than three years."

"Infamous creature, I'll teach you to trifle thus with your master," and he shook her so violently that her screams brought several other domestics, and among the rest, Hasem, to her rescue.

"My lord," said Hasem, "pardon your slave, and suffer us to rejoice in your recovery, when we had despaired of your ever unclosing your eyes, having slept four years and twenty days!"

At this instant Nourjahad, with some confusion, recollected the condition the genie had affixed to his gift. He ordered every one but Hasem to withdraw, and when they were alone, he said: "Tell me then, Hasem, is Mandana really dead?"

"She is, my lord; and when she was dying, she called me to her, and ordered me to take charge of the household; assuring me that you would one day revive again. Here, my lord, are the keys of the coffers she delivered to me, and I have endeavoured to preserve order and decorum in the management of your affairs;

and your condition has been kept a profound secret from every one but your own family."

Nourjahad shed torrents of tears to the memory of Mandana, and for a long time he felt disgusted with every thing around him; but as time passed away, his grief diminished, and he began to feel some inclination to return to his former excesses. He had the prudence to relate to Hasem the mystery of his destiny, to prevent the likelihood of being buried alive, should another deep sleep fall upon him.

Having taken this precaution, he selected from his seraglio a beauty, named Cadiga, and married her. And now he once more delivered himself up to intemperance of every kind. He forgot that there were wants and distresses among his fellow creatures. He lived only for himself, and his heart became as hard as the coffers which held his misapplied treasures. The poets and sages whom he entertained in his house, began to grow irksome to him, and at length thinking their company tedious, he turned them out of his palace.

One day the most extravagant project came into his head that ever filled the imagination of man: because his gardens were very beautiful, he fancied they must resemble the gardens of paradise, and he ordered the women of the seraglio to personate the *Houries*, those angelic beings who are said to be the companions of true believers in the Mahometan Paradise. He called himself the prophet Mahomet, and gave orders to Hasem to prepare for the celestial masquerade. Neither art nor expence were spared on this extraordinary occasion. The fountains were ordered to run with milk and wine, instead of water; and fruits, blossoms, and flowers were gathered together to embellish this terrestrial paradise.

On the day the festivities were to commence, the weather being extremely hot, Nourjahad, who had been viewing the preparations with childish impatience, laid down on a couch to take a short repose, leaving orders to be awakened before sun-set.

Nourjahad, nowever, opened his eyes without any one's having disturbed his slumbers, and finding the day already closed, he sprung up in a violent passion, and stamping on the floor, ordered the slave who appeared, to bid his women one and all, to hasten into his apartment.

While he was resolving to punish the neglect with the greatest severity, they appeared, throwing up their veils as they entered his apartment. But, O heavens, what was Nourjahad's anger and astonishment, when, instead of the beautiful Houries he expected to see, he beheld only a train of withered and deformed old women.

Surprise and indignation deprived him of the power of speech, till the foremost stepped forward and offered to embrace him. He pushed her from him, crying, "Avaunt, fiend, where are my slaves? where is Hasem? Where are the women of my seraglio?"

"Alas! my lord! have you entirely forgot me, forgot your beloved Cadiga?"

"Thou Cadiga? detested wretch, thou liest! This very day, my Cadiga was as beautiful as an angel; and thou resemblest nothing but a fury."

"Alas! my lord, you have not seen your Cadiga these forty years and eleven months, till this moment."

"What!" cried Nourjahad, "have I slept so long as forty years and eleven months?"

"Yes, my lord, and we your faithful wives have in the mean time undergone the natural transformation from youth to age."

"By the temple of Mecca!" exclaimed Nourjahad, "this genius of mine is no better than an evil spirit, or he could not take such delight in persecuting me."

"Ah, my lord!" cried Cadiga, "I am not ignorant of the strange fate by which your life is governed; Hasem, your faithful Hasem, communicated to me with his dying breath—"

"Is Hasem dead?"

"Yes, my lord, he died some months since, bequeathing to me your secret, and the care of your person and household.

Nourjahad now ordering them all to withdraw, threw himself again on his couch—"I see," said he, "the folly of my expectations. Mandana and Hasem are dead, and Cadiga is grown old and ugly, and already totters on the brink of the grave. I lose all whom I love, and my immortality does not secure me from affliction, nor can I purchase happiness with all my wealth. Fool that I was to desire a step beyond the bounds of prudence and moderation. A friend shall no sooner become endeared to me, than death will deprive me of him, and if I marry again, how many bright eyes am I doomed to see for ever closed. Ah! it is a comfortless life that I have chosen. I find too late that my boundless riches cannot purchase happiness."

Nourjahad now grew peevish, morose, and tyrannical. Cruelty took possession of his breast; he abused his women, beat his slaves, and seemed to enjoy no satisfaction but that of tormenting others. Cadiga ventured to expostulate with him.

"To whom am I accountable," said he, for my actions?"

"To God and our Prophet."

"Thou liest," he replied, "as I am exempt from death, I can never be brought to judgment."

"But hast thou no regard for the laws of society, nor pity for the sufferings of thy fellow-creatures?"

"Foolish woman! dost thou then talk to me of laws, who think myself bound by none?"

"Thou art a monster, and not fit to live!" said the undaunted Cadiga.

"Go tell thy Prophet so!" exclaimed Nourjahad, plucking a poniard from his side, and plunging it into her bosom.—She fell at his feet, weltering in her blood; and he left the chamber, without shewing the least concern for the deed he had committed.

That night he went to rest as usual, and when he awoke again, he beheld a man sitting near the foot of his couch, weeping. "What is the matter?" asked Nourjahad.

"Schemzeddin is dead! my lord—the good sultan is no more!"

"I am glad of it," cried Nourjahad "I shall now have my liberty. Who is next in reign in Ormuz?"

"Doubtless, my lord, the prince Schemerzad, the eldest son of Schemzeddin."

"Slave, Schemzeddin had no son."

"Pardon me, my lord, the prince was born the very hour Cadiga died by your hand; and he is esteemed the wisest and most accomplished prince of his age."

"Thou art very insolent, methinks, to mention Cadiga before me; and a sultan of four-and-twenty hours old, must needs be very wise and accomplished."

"Nay, my lord, replied the man, "the prince this very day is twenty years old."

Nourjahad, on hearing this, looked in the face of the man, and perceived him to be a stranger--"Twenty years old?" said he, starting up, "it should seem then that I have slept twenty years; and who art thou, for I do not remember ever to have seen thy face before? and how camest thou hither?"

"My name," answered the stranger, "is Cozro. I am the brother of Cadiga, who sent for me when she was dying, and made me swear by our holy Prophet to her, that I would watch and attend on you carefully. I did not know till afterwards, that you had murdered my sister, and when I did learn it I could scarce refrain from inflicting vengeance on thee?"

"And pray what restrained thee?"

"Reverence for my oath, and the fear of offending the Almighty."

Nourjahad was struck with awe at this answer, but he continued silent while Cozro proceeded to inform him, that his slaves, even those he had most trusted, had plundered his coffers and absconded." "Alas!"

cried Nourjahad, "my treacherous joys have deceived me. I am bereft of hope; I am like a savage beast in the desert, whose paths are shunned by all mankind."

"Nourjahad," said Cozro, "I have heard thy story from Cadiga; and know, Oh mistaken man, that thy misfortunes are the consequences of thy crimes. Thou hast abused the power vested in thy hands, and by the immutable laws of heaven, either in this world or the next, vice will receive its punishment, and virtue its reward.

"Alas!" replied Nourjahad, "thou hast awakened in me a remorse, of which I was never sensible before. I look back with shame and horror on my past life. What shall I do, O Cozro, to expiate my offences?"

"If thy repentance is sincere," replied Cozro, "the means are amply in thy power. Thy riches will enable thee to diffuse blessings among mankind."

"It shall be so," exclaimed Nourjahad with rapture. "My treasures shall be open to thee, thou good old man. Inquire out every family in Ormuz, whom calamity hath overtaken, and restore them to prosperity. Seek the helpless and the innocent, and by a timely supply of their wants, secure them against the attacks of poverty, or temptations of vice. Find out merit wherever it lies concealed, clogged by adversity, or obscured by malice; lift it up from the dust, and let it shine conspicuous to the world!"

"Blessed be the purpose of thy heart!" said Cozro, "and prosperous be the days of thy life!"

Nourjahad now sent Cozro forth on his benevolent errand, and only waited to have himself released from the prohibition Schemzeddin had laid upon him, to join Cozro in his mission. No notice had yet been taken of a petition he had sent to the new sultan, for the restoration of his liberty; but Nourjahad bore that with patience, and spent his days in his closet, laying plans for the benefit of his fellow-creatures. He

was now temperate in all his appetites, and returned to the strict exercise of all the sacred duties of his religion.

One day he was surprised to find that Cozro did not return at his usual time; but was still more amazed to see an officer, attended by a guard, enter his apartment, and accuse him of employing an agent to distribute large sums of money in the city, to bring about a revolt among the people. It was in vain that Nourjahad attempted to refute the charge, He was called a traitor, was dragged from his house, and lodged in one of the dungeons of the state prison.

At midnight, the jailor entered with some bread and water, and from him he learned that his accomplice, as they called Cozro, refusing to confess the particulars of the treason in which he was concerned, was already condemned to death, and that the bell now tolling was the signal for his execution.

Nourjahad prostrated himself on the ground. "Alas!" cried he, "am I then to cause the death of the most virtuous man I know? Ah, why was I not content with the common lot of mortals, O holy Prophet!" he exclaimed, "take back the gift which I, in the ignorance and presumption of my heart, so vainly desired; and which, too late, I find a punishment instead of a blessing."

He had scarce pronounced these words when the door of his dungeon flew open, and his guardian genius, all radiant with light, stood before him. "Nourjahad," he said, "thy prayers are heard, yet examine thy heart once more. Art thou willing to become poor again, and subject to death, the common lot of mortals?"

"Most willingly," replied Nourjahad.

"Then joyfully do I resume the dangerous gift I bestowed on thy erring wishes. Prostrate thyself with thy face to the earth, and await what shall befal thee."

The door of the dungeon then closed, and Nourjahad continued in prayer and meditation, till the

dawn of the following morning, when the keeper of the prison appeared to lead him to the presence of the sultan.

He was now carried out of the dungeon, and placed in an open carriage, between two officers with drawn sabres in their hands. The chariot was surrounded by soldiers, and in this manner he was conducted to the hall of audience, where the sultan was seated on his throne, with his emirs, his nobles, and all the great officers of his court standing round him.

Nourjahad stood before the sultan with his eyes bent upon the ground; his deportment was modest and respectful, but supported by conscious innocence, he discovered no symptoms of fear.

Schemerzad made a sign for every one to withdraw, except the grand vizier, who stood on the steps of the throne.

"Art thou prepared," demanded the sultan, "to make a full confession of thy treasonable designs? Say, audacious wretch! to what end was thy profusion employed?"

"To obtain a blessing from heaven," answered Nourjahad; "and by relieving the wants and afflictions of others, to make some atonement for my own intemperate abuse of wealth, which ought to have been employed to better purposes."

"Wouldst thou persuade me that charity was thy only motive?"

"It was, illustrious sultan. I have spoken the truth; and to convince your majesty, that I never harboured any treasonable design against your person or government, I am ready at this moment to deliver into your hands that immense treasure, which, had I been vile enough so to have employed it, would have bought the fidelity of half your subjects."

"Do then, said the sultan, "as thou hast spoken, and I will believe thee."

"If your majesty will permit any one to go with me to my house, I will deliver into his hands all my wealth; and if my lord permits me to live, I will henceforth labour to support myself."

"No," replied the sultan, "I will not trust thee from my sight; instruct my vizier where to find thy treasures."

Nourjahad then delivered up the key of the subterraneous cavern which contained the urns full of gold and precious stones, and directed the vizier in what part of the garden he was to find the entrance of the cavern.

As the gardens of Nourjahad joined those of the royal palace, the vizier was not long in going and returning, but he brought word that there was not a single urn, nor any vestige of treasure concealed in the cavern. Nourjahad instantly recollected that his guardian spirit had probably reclaimed this, as well as the other gift, and said, "A genie who watches over my motions, has doubtless carried away my wealth."

"Wretch!" cried the sultan, "darest thou suppose that affecting to be mad can save thy forfeit life?"

"My lord," replied Nourjahad, prostrating himself at the foot of the throne, "I call heaven to witness, I have spoken nothing but the truth. The severest tortures you can inflict will extort no more. I was willing to sacrifice the wealth I believed myself to possess, and I am now as ready to yield up my life."

"Art thou not afraid to die?" said Schemerzad.

"No, mighty sultan; I look upon death to a virtuous man to be the forerunner to everlasting happiness."

On this the sultan arose and clapped his hands, which Nourjahad supposed was the signal for his execution; but instead of slaves to seize him, he beheld his guardian genie standing close to the throne of Schemerzad. Awed and amazed, he started back, and gazed on the vision, when the angelic youth casting off the circlet that bound his forehead, and throwing off a head of artificial flaxen hair that flowed upon his shoulders, a fall of brown hair dropped in light curls upon his blushing cheeks; and Nourjahad beheld in the person of his seraphic guide, his beloved and beautiful Mandana.

At the same moment the sultan exclaimed, "Look

up, Nourjahad! raise thy eyes to thy master's face; no longer the angry Schemerzad, but Schemzeddin, thy friend and protector."

"And for whom wouldst thou take me?" said the vizier, throwing aside his turban.

"By Mahomet," cried Nourjahad, "If I do not dream, I behold the royal Schemzeddin! and in thee, vizier, my faithful slave, Hasem!"

"It is even so," said the sultan. "I loved you, Nourjahad, too well not to endeavour to work your reformation. I employed the beautiful Mandana to personate your guardian angel. I introduced her into your chamber, through a secret door, unknown to you, which communicates with a gallery in the royal palace. You fell into the snare. The liquid you drank was an opiate, and while you slept we conveyed the urns into your chamber, filled from the royal treasury. When you were settled in your imaginary felicity, Hasem offered himself to your service, and I had Mandana, who already loved you passionately, presented to you. No wonder her charms captivated your heart. As I foresaw, you yielded to all manner of excess, and I, to awaken your remorse, had an opiate administered, and withdrew Mandana from your arms. The confinement I laid you under, was to prevent your having any communication beyond your own household, and you were served only by my slaves, who were bound by solemn oaths to keep my secret. You did not suspect that you had slept only a night instead of four years, but you were not reformed, and we imposed on you that you had a second sleep of longer duration. Your beautiful slaves were conveyed away in the night, and old women introduced, instructed to personate them, which they did admirably; and Hasem, whom you supposed to be dead, remained secretly in your house to govern the mechanism of our plot. Still you continued to rebel against the laws of God and man, and at length stained your hand with blood--happily you did not take the life you aimed at; she who personated Cadiga, still lives. I now determined myself to be an eye

Nourjahad.

Jack and the Bean-Stalk.

witness of your conduct, and to try if any spark of virtue remained in your soul, which could be rekindled. When you awoke the next morning, I presented myself as Cozro; and I had soon the satisfaction so find thee a new man.

"Fourteen months only have elapsed since we began our trial. The greatest part of the sums expended have returned to my coffers, and that which has been otherwise disposed of, I do not regret, since I find Nourjahad become worthy to be the friend of Schemzeddin. Take back thy amiable wife, Mandana, and receive the fixed confidence and love of thy sultan."

History says, that Nourjahad was raised to the highest offices of state; that his wisdom and virtue proved an ornament and support to the Persian throne during the course of a long and prosperous life; and that his name became famous throughout the eastern world.

JACK AND THE BEAN-STALK.

In the days of King Alfred, there lived a poor woman, whose cottage was situated in a remote country village, a great many miles from London.

She had been a widow some years, and had an only child, named Jack, whom she indulged to a fault: the consequence of her blind partiality was, that Jack did not pay the least attention to any thing she said, but was indolent, careless, and extravagant. His follies were not owing to a bad disposition, but that his mother had never checked him. By degrees, she disposed of all she possessed—scarcely any thing remained but a cow.

The poor woman one day met Jack with tears in her eyes; her distress was great, and, for the first time in her life, she could not help reproaching him, saying, "Indeed, dear son, you have at last brought me to beggary and ruin; I have not money enough to purchase food for another day—nothing remains for

me but to sell my cow. I am very sorry to part with her; it grieves me sadly, but we must not starve."

For five minutes Jack felt a degree of remorse, but it was soon over, and he importuned his mother to let him sell the cow at the next village. As he was going along, he met a butcher, who inquired why he was driving the cow from home? Jack replied, it was his intention to sell it. The butcher held some curious beans in his hat; they were of various colours, and attracted Jack's notice: this did not pass unnoticed by the butcher, who, knowing Jack's easy temper, thought now was the time to take advantage of it, and, determined not to let slip so good an opportunity, asked what was the price of the cow, offering at the same time all the beans in his hat for her. The silly boy could not express his pleasure at what he supposed so great an offer: the bargain was struck instantly, and the cow exchanged for a few paltry beans. Jack made the best of his way home, calling aloud to his mother before he reached the house, thinking to surprise her.

When she saw the beans, and heard Jack's account, her patience quite forsook her; she kicked the beans away in a passion—they flew in all directions, some were scattered into the garden. The poor woman reflected on her great loss, and was quite in despair. Not having any thing to eat, they both went supperless to bed.

Jack awoke very early in the morning, and, seeing something uncommon from the window of his bedchamber, ran down stairs into the garden, where he soon discovered that some of the beans had taken root, and sprung up surprisingly: the stalks were of an immense thickness, and had so entwined, that they formed a ladder nearly like a chain in appearance.

Looking upwards, he could not discern the top, it appeared to be lost in the clouds: he tried it, found it firm, and not to be shaken. He quickly formed the resolution of endeavouring to climb up to the top, in order to seek his fortune, and ran to communicate his

intention to his mother, not doubting but she would be equally pleased with himself. She declared he should not go; said he would break her heart, intreated, and threatened, but all in vain. Jack sat out, and after climbing for some hours, reached the top of the bean-stalk, fatigued and quite exhausted. Looking around, he found himself in a strange country: it appeared to be a desert, quite barren; not a tree, shrub, house, or living creature to be seen; here and there were scattered fragments of unhewn stone, and, at unequal distances, small heaps of earth were loosely thrown together. Jack seated himself pensively upon a block of stone, thought of his mother, and reflected with sorrow on his disobedience in climbing the bean-stalk against her inclination: he concluded that he must now die with hunger.

However he walked on, hoping to see a house where he might beg something to eat and drink: presently an infirm looking woman appeared at a distance; as she approached, he saw that she was old, her skin much wrinkled, and her tattered garments proved poverty. She accosted Jack, inquiring how he came there: he related the circumstance of the bean-stalk. She then asked if he recollected his father? he replied he did not; and added there must be some mystery relating to him, for he had frequently asked his mother who his father was, but that she always burst into tears, and appeared violently agitated, nor did she recover herself for some days after; one thing, however, he could not avoid observing upon those occasions, which was, that she always carefully avoided answering him, and even seemed afraid of speaking, as if there were some secret connected with his father's history which she must not disclose.

The old woman replied, "I will reveal the whole story; your mother must not. But before I begin, I require a solemn promise on your part to do what I command: I am a fairy, and if you do not perform exactly what I desire, your mother and yourself shall both be destroyed. Jack was frightened at the old

woman's menaces, and promised to fulfil her injunctions exactly, and the fairy thus addressed him:—"Your father was a rich man, his disposition remarkably benevolent; he was very good to the poor, and constantly relieving them; he made it a rule never to let a day pass without doing a kindness to some person. On one particular day in the week he kept open house, and invited only those who were reduced and had lived well. He always presided himself, and did all in his power to render his guests comfortable; the rich and the great were not invited. The servants were all happy, and greatly attached to their master and mistress. Your father, though only a private gentleman, was as rich as a prince, and he deserved all he possessed, for he only lived to do good. Such a man was soon known and talked of. A giant lived a great many miles off; this man was altogether as wicked as your father was good: he was in his heart envious, covetous, and cruel; but he had the art of concealing those vices. He was poor, and wished to enrich himself at any rate.

"Hearing your father spoken of, he was determined to become acquainted with him, hoping to ingratiate himself into your father's favour. He removed quickly into your neighbourhood, caused it to be reported that he was a gentleman who had just lost all he possessed by an earthquake, and found it difficult to escape with his life; his wife with him. Your father gave credit to his story and pitied him; he gave him handsome apartments in his own house, and caused himself and his wife to be treated like visitors of consequence, little imagining that the giant was meditating a horrid return for all his favours. Things went on in this way some time, the giant becoming daily more impatient to put his plan into execution; at last a favourable opportunity presented itself. Your father's house was at some distance from the sea-shore, but with a good glass the coast could be seen distinctly. The giant was one day using the telescope; the wind was very high; he saw a fleet

of ships in distress off the rocks: he hastened to your father, mentioned the circumstance, and eagerly requested he would send all the servants he could spare to relieve the sufferers. Every one was instantly dispatched, except the porter and your nurse; the giant then joined your father in the study, and appeared to be delighted—he really was so. Your father recommended a favourite book, and was handing it down: the giant took the opportunity, and stabbed him; he instantly fell dead. The giant left the body, found the porter and nurse, and presently dispatched them. You were then only three months old; your mother had you in her arms in a remote part of the house, and was ignorant of what was going on; she went into the study, but how was she shocked, on discovering your father a corpse, and weltering in his blood! She was stupified with horror and grief, and was motionless. The giant, who was seeking her, found her in that state, and hastened to serve her and you as he had done her husband, but she fell at his feet, and in a pathetic manner besought him to spare your life and her's.

"The cruel giant for a short time was struck with remorse, and spared your life and her's; but first he made her swear solemnly, that she never would inform you who your father was, or answer any questions concerning him: assuring her, that if she did he would certainly discover her, and put both of you to death in the most cruel manner. Your mother took you in her arms, and fled as quick as possible; she was scarcely gone, when the giant repented that he had suffered her to escape; he would have pursued her instantly, but he had his own safety to provide for, as it was necessary he should be gone before the servants returned. Having gained your father's confidence, he knew where to find all his treasure: he soon loaded himself and his wife, set the house on fire in several places, and when the servants returned, the house was burnt down to the ground.

"Your poor mother, forlorn, abandoned, and forsaken, wandered with you a great many miles from this scene of desolation; fear added to her haste: she settled in the cottage where you were brought up, and it was entirely owing to her fear of the giant that she has never mentioned your father to you.

"I became your father's guardian at his birth; but fairies have laws to which they are subject as well as mortals. A short time before the giant went to your father's, I transgressed; my punishment was a total suspension of power for a limited time; an unfortunate circumstance, as it prevented my succouring your father. The day on which you met the butcher, as you went to sell your mother's cow, my power was restored. It was I who secretly prompted you to take the beans in exchange for the cow. By my power, the bean-stalk grew to so great a height and formed a ladder. I need not add, that I inspired you with a strong desire to ascend the ladder.

"The giant lives in this country: you are the person appointed to punish him for all his wickedness. You will have dangers and difficulties to encounter, but you must persevere in avenging the death of your father, or you will not prosper in any of your undertakings, but always be miserable. As to the giant's possessions, you may seize upon all with impunity: for every thing he has is your's, though now you are unjustly deprived of it. One thing I strictly charge you—never let your mother be made acquainted with your journies beforehand; the thought of it would kill her, for she has not yet thoroughly overcome the fright she encountered at your father's death.* Go along the direct road, you will soon see the house where your cruel enemy lives. Remember the severe punishment that awaits you if you disobey my com-

* Jack could not bear to deceive his mother, and besides, he knew it would make her more uneasy to set off clandestinely, than to inform her of his journey. The fairy, at first, strongly opposed this; but Jack intreated her so earnestly, that she reluctantly consented; he promised to make it appear as a frolic of his own, and not that he acted by her commands.

manos." So saying, the fairy disappeared, leaving Jack to pursue his journey.

He walked until after sun-set, and soon, to his great joy, espied a large mansion. A plain-looking woman was standing at the door, he accosted her, begging she would give him a morsel of bread and a night's lodging. She expressed great surprise on seeing him, said it was quite uncommon to see a human being near their house, for it was well known that her husband was a large and powerful giant, and that he would never eat any thing but human flesh, if he could possibly get it; that he did not think any thing of walking fifty miles to procure it, usually being out all day for that purpose.

This account terrified Jack, but still he hoped to elude the giant, and therefore again he intreated the woman to take him in for one night only, and hide him in the oven. The good woman at last suffered herself to be persuaded, for she was of a compassionate disposition. She gave him plenty to eat and drink, and took him into the house. First they entered a large hall, magnificently furnished; they then passed through several spacious rooms, all in the same style of grandeur, though they appeared to be forsaken and desolate.

A long gallery was next; it was very dark, just light enough to shew that instead of a wall on one side, there was a grating of iron which parted off a dismal dungeon, from whence issued the groans of those poor victims whom the giant reserved in confinement for his own voracious appetite. Poor Jack was half dead with fear, and would have given the world to be with his mother again; but this he feared could never be; for he gave himself up for lost, and now mistrusted the good woman. At the farther end of the gallery there was a winding staircase, which led them into a spacious kitchen: a very good fire was burning in the grate, and Jack, not seeing any thing to make him uncomfortable, soon forgot his fears, and was just beginning to enjoy himself, when he was aroused

by a loud knocking at the house-door; the giant's wife ran to secure him in the oven, and then made what haste she could to let her husband in, and Jack heard him accost her in a voice like thunder, saying, "Wife, I smell fresh meat." "Oh! my dear," she replied, "it is nothing but the people in the dungeon." The giant appeared to believe her, and walked down stairs into the very kitchen where poor Jack was, who shook, trembled, and was more terrified than he had yet been.

At last the monster seated himself quietly by the fire-side, whilst his wife prepared supper. By degrees Jack recovered himself sufficiently to look at the giant through a crevice; he was astonished to see how much he devoured, and thought he would never have done eating and drinking. When supper was ended, the giant desired his wife to bring him his hen. A very beautiful hen was brought, and placed upon the table before him. Jack's curiosity was very great to see what would happen; he observed that every time the giant said "lay," the hen laid an egg of solid gold. The giant amused himself a long time with the hen, meanwhile his wife went to bed. At length the giant fell fast asleep by the fire-side, and snored like the roaring of a cannon. At day break, Jack finding the giant not likely to be soon roused, crept softly out of his hiding-place, seized the hen, and ran off with her.

He met with some difficulty in finding his way out of the house, but at last he reached the road in safety, without fear of pursuit; he easily found the way to the bean-stalk, and descended it better and quicker than he expected. His mother was overjoyed to see him: he found her crying bitterly, and lamenting his fate, for she concluded he had come to some shocking end through his rashness.

Jack was impatient to shew his hen, and inform his mother how valuable it was. "And now, mother," said Jack, "I have brought home that which will quickly make you rich without any trouble. I hope I have made you some amends for the affliction I have

caused you through my idleness, extravagance, and foily."—The hen produced them as many eggs as they desired; they sold them, and in a little time became very rich. For some months Jack and his mother lived happily together; but he being very desirous of travelling,* longed to climb the bean-stalk, and pay the giant another visit, in order to carry off some more of his treasures; for during the time that Jack was in the giant's mansion, whilst he lay concealed in the oven, he learned from the conversation which took place between the giant and his wife, that he possessed some great curiosities. Jack thought on his journey again and again; but still he could not determine how to break it to his mother, being well assured that she would be quite resolved to prevent his going. One day he told her boldly that he must take a journey up the bean-stalk; she begged he would not think of it, and tried all in her power to dissuade him, saying, that the giant could not fail of knowing him, and would desire no better than to get him into his power, that he might put him to a cruel death, in order to be revenged for the loss of his hen.

Jack, finding that all his arguments were useless, pretended to give up the point, though resolved to go at all events. He had a dress prepared, which would disguise him, and with something to discolour his skin, he thought it impossible for any one to recollect him. In a few mornings after discoursing with his mother he rose very early, put on his disguise, changed his complexion, and, unperceived by any one, climbed the bean-stalk. He was greatly fatigued when he reached the top, and very hungry. Having rested some time on one of the stones, he pursued his journey to the giant's mansion. He reached it late in the evening; the woman was standing at the door as usual. Jack accosted her, at the same time telling her a pitiful tale, and requested she would give him some victuals and

* Recollecting the fairy's commands, and fearing that if he delayed she would put her threats into execution.

drink, and a night's lodging. She told him what he knew before full well, concerning her husband, and also that she one night admitted a poor, hungry, distressed boy, who was half dead with travelling; that he stole one of the giant's treasures, and, ever since that, her husband was worse than before, and used her very cruelly, continually upbraiding her with being the cause of his loss. Jack was at no loss to discover that he was attending to the account of a story in which he was the principal actor: he did his best to persuade the good woman to admit him, but he found it a very hard task.

At last she consented, and as she led the way, Jack observed that every thing was just as he had found it before: she took him into the kitchen, and hid him in an old lumber-closet. The giant returned at the usual time, and walked in so heavily, that the house was shaken to the foundation. He seated himself by a good fire, saying, "I smell fresh meat;" the wife replied it was the crows, who had brought a piece of carrion, and laid it at the top of the house upon the leads.

While supper was preparing, the giant was very ill-tempered and impatient, frequently lifting up his hand to strike his wife for not being quick enough; she however was always so fortunate as to elude the blow; he was also continually upbraiding her with the loss of his hen.

The giant, at last, having gratified his voracious appetite, and eaten till he was quite satisfied, said to his wife, "I must have something to amuse me, either my bags of money or my harp." After a great deal of ill-humour, and having teased his wife some time, he commanded her to bring his bags of gold and silver. Jack, as before, peeped out of his hiding-place, and presently the woman brought two bags into the room; they were of an immense size, one was filled with new guineas, the other with new shillings. They were both placed before the giant; he reprimanded his wife most severely for staying so long: the poor

woman replied, trembling with fear, that they were so heavy she could scarcely lift them, and concluded, at last, that she never could bring them down stairs, adding, that she had nearly fainted owing to their weight. This so exasperated the giant, that he raised his hand to strike her; she, however, escaped, and went to bed, leaving him to count over his treasures by way of amusement.

First, the bag containing the silver was emptied, and the contents placed upon the table. Jack viewed the glittering heaps with delight, and most heartily wished the contents in his own possession. The giant (little thinking himself so narrowly watched) reckoned the silver over and over again, then put it all carefully into the bag, which he made very secure. The other bag was opened next, and the guineas placed upon the table. If Jack was pleased at sight of the silver, how much more delighted he felt when he saw such a heap of gold: he had the boldness even to think of gaining it; but soon recollecting himself, he feared the giant would feign sleep, in order the better to entrap any one who might be concealed. The gold was put up as the silver had been before, and, if possible, more securely. The giant snored aloud; Jack could compare his noise to nothing but the roaring of the sea in a high wind, when the tide is coming in. At last Jack, concluding him to be asleep, and therefore secure, stole out of his hiding place, and approached the giant, in order to carry off his two bags of money; but, just as he laid his hand upon one of the bags, a little dog, whom he had not perceived before, started out from under the giant's chair, and barked at Jack most furiously, who gave himself up for lost; fear rivetted him to the spot; instead of running, he stood still, though expecting his enemy to awake every minute. Contrary however, to expectation, the giant continued in a sound sleep; the dog grew weary of barking: Jack looked round, saw a large piece of meat, which he threw to the dog, who took it into the lumber closet which Jack had just left.

He found himself thus delivered from a noisy and troublesome enemy; and as the giant did not awake, Jack seized both the bags, and carried them away; he reached the house door in safety, and found it quite day-light. In his way to the top of the bean stalk, the only difficulty he had to encounter, arose from the weight of the bags, and really they were so heavy he could hardly carry them. Jack was overjoyed when he found himself near the bean-stalk; he soon reached the bottom, and immediately ran to seek his mother. To his great surprise, the cottage was deserted; he went from one room to another, without being able to find any one; he then went out into the street, hoping to see some of the neighbours, who could inform him where he might find his mother. An old woman said she was at a neighbour's, ill of a fever, and directed him to the house where she was. He was shocked on finding her apparently dying, and could scarcely bear his own reflections, on knowing himself to be the cause. On being told of his return, by degrees she revived, and began to recover gradually. Jack presented her with his two valuable bags; they lived happily and comfortably: the cottage was repaired, and well furnished. For three years Jack heard no more of the bean-stalk, but he could not forget it, though he feared making his mother unhappy. She would not mention the bean stalk, lest it might remind him of taking another journey. Notwithstanding the comforts Jack enjoyed, his mind dwelt upon the bean-stalk;* he could not think of any thing else, it was in vain endeavouring to amuse himself. His mother found that something preyed upon his mind, and endeavoured to discover the cause; but Jack knew too well what the consequence would be to disclose the cause of his melancholy to her. He did his utmost therefore to conquer the great desire he felt for another journey up the bean-stalk; how-

* For the fairy's menaces in case of disobedience on his part, were ever present to his imagination

ever, finding the inclination grow too powerful for him, he began to make secret preparations for his journey, and, on the longest day, arose as soon as it was light, ascended the bean stalk, and reached the top with some trouble. He found the road, journey, &c. much as it had been the two former times; he arrived at the giant's mansion in the evening, and found his wife standing at the door. Jack had disguised himself so completely, that she did not appear to have the least recollection of him; however, when he pleaded hunger and poverty in order to gain admittance, he found it very difficult indeed to persuade her. At last, he prevailed, and was concealed in the copper. When the giant returned in the evening, he said, "I smell fresh meat;" but Jack felt quite composed, as he had said so before, and was soon satisfied; however, the giant starting up suddenly, and notwithstanding all his wife could say, he searched all around the room. Whilst this was going on, Jack was terrified exceedingly, and ready to die with fear, wishing himself at home a thousand times; but when the giant approached the copper, and put his hand upon the lid, Jack thought his death-warrant was signed. The giant ended his search there, without moving the lid of the copper, and seated himself quietly. This fright nearly overcame poor Jack; he was afraid of moving or even breathing, lest he should be heard.

The giant at last ate a great supper; when he had finished, he commanded his wife to fetch down his harp. Jack peeped under the copper-lid, and soon saw the most beautiful harp that could be imagined; it was placed by the giant; he said, "play," and it instantly played of its own accord, without being touched. The music was very fine, Jack was delighted, and felt more anxious to get the harp into his possession, than either of the former treasures. The giant's soul was not attuned to harmony, and the music lulled him into a sound sleep. Now therefore was the time to carry off the harp, and the giant appeared to be in a more profound sleep than usual.

Jack quickly determined, got out of the copper, and took the harp. The harp was a fairy; it called out loudly, "master! master! master!" The giant awoke, stood up, and tried to pursue Jack, but he had drank so much that he could not stand. Poor Jack ran as fast as he could; in a little time the giant was sufficiently recovered to walk slowly, or rather to reel after him; had he been sober he must have overtaken Jack instantly; but, as he then was, Jack contrived to be first at the top of the bean-stalk, the giant calling to him all the way he went, and sometimes he was very near him. The moment Jack set his foot on the bean-stalk, he called for a hatchet; one was brought directly; he soon reached the ground. Just at that instant the giant was beginning to come down; but Jack with his hatchet cut the bean-stalk close off to the root, which made the giant fall into the garden; the fall killed him.

Jack's mother was delighted when she saw the bean-stalk destroyed;* he heartily begged his mother's pardon for all the sorrow and affliction he had caused her, promising faithfully to be very dutiful and obedient to her for the future. He proved as good as his word, and was a pattern of affectionate behaviour and attention to parents. His mother and he lived together a great many years, and continued to be always very happy.

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* At that instant the fairy appeared; she first addressed Jack's mother, and explained every circumstance relating to the journies up the bean-stalk. Jack was now fully cleared in the opinion of his mother. The fairy then charged Jack to be dutiful and affectionate to his mother, and to follow his father's good example, which was the only way to be respectable and happy. She then took her leave of them and disappeared.

GRACIOSA AND PERCINET.

THERE was a King and a Queen who had only one daughter. Her beauty, her sweetness of temper, and her wit, which were incomparable, caused them to give her the name of Graciosa. She was her mother's sole delight; who ordered new garments for every morning throughout the year, either of cloth of gold, velvet, or satin. Yet, though she was dressed in the richest manner, she was not proud, nor vain-glorious. The morning was spent in learning the sciences; and the afternoon in company with the Queen, with whom she was employed at her needle. At dinner and supper she was served in plate, and the table was spread with dishes of sweetmeats, and all manner of confectionary; so that she was said to be the most happy princess in the world.

There was in the same court a very rich old maid, called the duchess Grognon, a most frightful creature to look upon; her hair was as red as fire: she had a face dreadfully broad, and covered over with large pimples: one of her eyes she had entirely lost, and the other was bleared. Her mouth was so wide as if she would have devoured the whole world; only those fears ceased, when people saw she had no teeth; she was hunch-backed and crump-shouldered, both before and behind, and lame of both legs. She mortally hated Graciosa because she was so lovely and beautiful, and retired from court that she might not hear the just praises that were continually bestowed on her. She lived in a castle of her own, not distant; and when any person who came to visit her, spoke in praise of the princess, she would cry out in a violent passion, "'Tis false, 'tis false; she's not at all handsome; I have more charms in my finger than she has in her whole body."

In a short time the queen fell sick and died; and

the princess Graciosa was very near following her, through grief for the loss of so good a mother. The king no less bemoaned his fatal separation from so dear and loving a wife; he shut himself up in his palace for a whole year. At length his physicians, fearing that he would impair his health, besought him earnestly to take the air, and divert himself. In compliance with this advice, he one day went a hunting; but the weather being extremely hot, and perceiving a fair castle not far off, upon the purlieus of the forest, thither he made with all his train, and went to repose himself.

Immediately the duchess Grognon, having notice of the king's arrival, (for to her it was that the castle belonged) made haste to receive him, and told him, that the coolest part of the castle was a large handsome under-room, to which she desired his majesty would give her leave to conduct him. Accordingly the king went along with her; and seeing in the room above two hundred pipes in rows, one above another, he asked her whether it was only for her own use that she made such large provision. "Yes, sir," said she, "I provide for none but myself and family; I should be very glad if your majesty would be pleased to taste my liquors; here is Canary, St. Laurent, Champagne, Hermitage, Rivesalte, Rosa Solis, Persicot, Fenouillet; which will your majesty make choice of?" "Frankly," said the king, "I prefer Champagne to any other wine." Grognon immediately took a little hammer, and having given a rap or two at the head of the pipe, it opened, and out came a million of pistoles: "Ha! what is the meaning of this?" said she, with a smile; and knocking at the head of another pipe, out flew as many guineas as would have filled a bushel. "Dear me, how is this!" said she, in feigned astonishment! From thence passing to a third, she knocked in the same manner, and there issued as many pearls and diamonds as covered the floor. "Well, sir," said she to the king, "this is past my understanding; somebody must certainly have robbed me of my fine wines,

and filled up the vessels with these trifles." "Trifles!" cried the king, in amazement: "in the name of prophecy, my lady Grognon, do you call these trifles? Why, madam, these trifles are enough to buy ten cities as big as London." "Well then, sir," said she, "to be plain with you, all these pipes are full of gold and precious stones, and I will make you master of them, upon condition you will marry me." "A match," cried the king, (who loved money better than any thing) "this very day, if you please, before we stir out of the castle." "But stay," said she, "there is one condition more: I will be mistress of your daughter as her mother was; she shall be wholly at my command; you shall leave me the sole disposal of her." "Agreed," cried the king; "you shall be mistress of my daughter too: Here's my hand upon it." Grognon gave him her hand; after which, having given him the key of the wealthy cellar, they took their leaves.

So soon as the king arrived at his palace, Graciosa, hearing that her father was returned, ran to meet him; embraced him, and asked him whether he had had good sport? To which her father replied, "I have caught a pigeon alive." "Oh, sir," said she, "give it me and I will make it my care." "That cannot be," continued the king; "for that I may more intelligibly explain myself, I must tell thee, that I have met the duchess Grognon, and taken her to my wife." "Good heavens!" cried Graciosa, in her first transports, "do you call her a pigeon, who is ten thousand times uglier than an owl?" "Hold your tongue," said the king; (shewing himself some what offended;) "'tis my pleasure that you love and respect her as much as if she was your mother. Go, therefore, and dress yourself, for I intend this day to return back and meet her."

The princess was very obedient; and went to her chamber to dress: but her nurse, perceiving by her eyes that something troubled her, "What is the matter, my dear jewel," said she; "why weeps my child?" "Oh! my poor nurse," replied Graciosa, "how is it possible I should do otherwise than weep; my father is

going to bring home a mother-in-law; and to complete my misery, the only and most cruel enemy I have in the world; in a word, 'tis the hideous Grognon. How is it possible to behold her within these curtains, which the queen, my dear mother, so curiously embroidered with her own hands? how is it possible to caress a hideous face that has so impatiently sought my death?" "My dear child," replied the nurse, there is a necessity that your demeanour should be as conspicuously good, as your birth is great: princesses, like yourself, ought to give greater examples than others: and what more noble example can you give, than that of obedience to your father? promise me, then, that you will not let Grognon see you discontented." The princess had much ado to resolve; but the discreet nurse gave her so many good reasons for it, that she promised at last to put as good a face upon the matter as she could, and comply with her step-dame's humour.

She dressed herself in a green garment, the ground of which was cloth of gold: her white dishevelled hair flowed in loose ringlets about her shoulders, which was the mode of that time; and she put upon her head a light garland of roses and jesamines, the leaves of which were all of meralds. In this dress, she looked as lovely as an angel; but an air of sadness, which she could not overcome, was still visible in her countenance.

To return to Grognon: That hideous creature was also employed in the decoration of her deformity. She had caused one shoe to be made half a cubit higher than the other, to avoid limping as much as possible. The valley on one side of her back was filled up with a bolster well stuffed, to make it level with the mountain on the other side; she had supplied the empty hole, from whence she had lost her eye, with a glass one, the best she could meet with; she had painted her cheeks white, and dyed her abominable carrots black: then she put on a purple robe lined with blue, over which she wore a yellow loose vest, tied with violet

ribbands. And she must needs make her entry on horseback, because she had heard the queens of Spain were wont so to do.

While the king was giving out his orders, Graciosa, who waited for his going to meet Grognon, went down into the garden, and walking forward into a gloomy grove, seated herself upon a bank of turfs: "Here," said she, at length, "I am at liberty: here I may weep as long as I will without molestation:" and with that she fell a sighing and weeping to that degree, that her eyes looked like two fountains of water. In this condition, having forgot all thoughts of returning again to the palace, she spied coming towards her a page, clad in green satin, with white plumes in his cap, and the most beautiful countenance in the world; who, when he drew near her, bent one knee upon the ground: "Princess," said he, "the King stays for you." She was surprised by the attractive features which she observed in the young page; and as she knew him not, thought he might be one of Grognon's train. "How long," said she, "have you been admitted by the king into the number of his pages!" "I belong not, madam, to the king," said he; "I belong to you, and never will belong to any other." "You belong to me!" replied the Princess, full of astonishment, "how is that possible, since I know not who you are?" "Oh! Princess," said he, "I never durst as yet attempt to make myself known. But the misfortunes with which you are threatened by the king's marriage, oblige me to speak to you sooner than otherwise I would have done. I had resolved to leave to time, and my own assiduous services, the care of manifesting my love and respect for your Highness, and—" "How! a page," cried the Princess, "has a page the presumption to tell me he loves me? This completes the measure of my misfortunes." "Fright not yourself, fair Graciosa," said the page, with a tender and respectful air; "I am Percinet, a prince too well known, both by birth, riches, and learning, for you to find so great an inequality between us, though your merit and beauty do indeed make a distinction.

I am often in those places which you frequent, though you see me not. The gift of fairyism, which I received from my birth, has greatly assisted to procure me the pleasure of your company: I will attend you this day, wherever you go, and perhaps it may so happen, that I may not prove a useless companion." All the while he was speaking, the Princess looked upon him with an astonishment from which she could scarce recover herself.—At last, said she, "Are you the Prince Percinet whom I have had so great a desire to see, and of whom such wonders are reported? How glad I am that you will be in the number of my friends! Now I no longer fear the mischievous Grognon, since you are so kind to take me under your protection." Some few words more they had together, and then Graciosa returned to the palace, where she found a horse ready harnessed and caparisoned, which Percinet had put into the stable, and which the grooms believed to be appointed for her. She mounted immediately; for she was very nimble and active, and the page took the horse by the bridle and led him, turning continually towards his mistress, that he might have the pleasure of beholding her.

When the horse that was made choice of to carry Grognon appeared near Graciosa's palfry, you would, on the comparison, have thought him some draught-horse taken from a cart; and the furniture of the Princess's horse did so glitter with precious stones, that there was no comparison between them: of which the king, whose head was full of a thousand other fancies, took no notice. But the eyes of all the lords and ladies were fixed upon the Princess, whose beauty they admired; and her pretty page in green, who they thought the most genteel that belonged to court.

They met Grognon upon the road in an open calash, who looked frightfully deformed and misshapen, notwithstanding her arts to conceal it. The king and the Princess embraced her, and presented her with her horse to get up and ride. But perceiving Graciosa's palfry, "How!" said she, "shall that puss have a finer

horse than I?—I had rather never be queen, but return to my wealthy castle, than be thus used." The king commanded the Princess immediately to alight, and make it her request to Grognon, that she would be pleased to do her the honour to accept of her horse.

The Princess obeyed without any reply; but Grognon took no notice of her, nor even thanked her for her civility; but causing herself to be mounted upon the Princess's fine ambler, she looked then, if possible, more odious and frightful than before; and all the while eight gentlemen held her for fear of falling. Nevertheless she was not pleased, but muttered a thousand menaces and curses between her gums. They asked her what she would be pleased to have? "Have!" said she, "why, as I am mistress here, I would have the green page to hold my horse, as he did when Graciosa rode upon it." Immediately the king ordered the green page to lead the queen's horse. Upon which Percinet cast his eyes upon his mistress, and she her's upon him, without speaking one word: however, he obeyed, and all the court moved on, while the trumpets sounded aloud; whereat Grognon was rejoiced, and thought to herself, she would not change her flat nose and screw mouth for all Graciosa's beauty.

But when they least expected it, the mettled horse began to caper and bounce, and at length fell a running as if it had been for a race. Grognon held fast by the mane and the pommel of the saddle, and bawled out a most hideous roar At length her courser threw her, and down she came with one foot in the stirrup, the horse dragging her over the stones, through bushes, and through thick and thin, till she was all over so bemired that it would have been a kindness to have pumped upon her. But as the whole court rode after her as fast as possible, they soon overtook her, though not till her flesh was torn from her legs and thighs, her head bruised in three or four places, and one arm broken; in short, never was royal bride in such a miserable condition.

The king seemed to be at his wits end: they picked

her up like a glass broken in pieces; for her bonnet lay in one place, her shoes in another; there lay a row of teeth, there lay an eye; they however carried her to the king's palace, put her to bed, and sent for the most eminent surgeons. But, notwithstanding her disorder, she continued to scold and rave without ceasing.

"This is one of Graciosa's tricks," cried she; "without doubt she picked out that unruly headstrong jade to do me a mischief, and to have killed me if she could. If the king does not do me justice, I'll return to my wealthy castle, and never see him more." Grognon's wrathful speech was presently reported to the king; whose prevailing passion being interest, the thoughts of losing so many pipes of gold and diamonds made him tremble; so that he was ready to submit to any thing. He ran to his odious mistress, fell at her feet, and swore, that if she would think of a punishment proportionable to Graciosa's offence, he would give her up to chastisement: To which she answered, she was satisfied, and would send for the wretch immediately.

Accordingly, a messenger was sent to tell the Princess, that Grognon would speak with her. The poor Princess immediately turned pale, and shook every joint of her, believing the message boded her no good, and that it was not to caress and give her sweetmeats, that Grognon desired her company. She looked about her every where, to see whether Percinet would appear, but there was no sign of him; so she went with trembling feet and a sad heart to Grognon's apartment. No sooner was she entered, but the doors were locked upon her, and four women, resembling four furies, fell upon her, tore her costly garments from her back, and stript off her very shift. But when they discovered her naked beauty, the cruel hags, being unable to bear the lustre of her dazzling whiteness, shut their eyes, as if they had been gazing along time upon the snow. "Fall on, fall on," cried the merciless Grognon, from her bed; "let me have her flayed, leave not a bit of that white skin, which she thinks so lovely, upon her flesh.

In any other distress Graciosa could have wished for Percinet; but finding herself quite stript, she was too modest to desire the Prince should be a witness of her nakedness, and therefore she prepared herself to suffer like a helpless lamb. The four furies had each of them a terrible rod in their hands, and huge brooms stood by them to make more, as they wore out the first: They laid on without mercy; and at every stroke, Grognon cryed out, "harder, harder yet, you are too merciful!"

Nobody would have thought, but that after all this, the Princess must have been flayed alive from head to foot: but it fell out otherwise; for the courtly Percient had bewitched the women's eyes, so that they thought they had rods in their hands, when they were only light plumes of various-coloured feathers; which Graciosa immediately perceived, and ceased to be afraid. "Oh, Percinet," said she to herself, "thou art come generously to my relief! what should I have done without thee?" The furies having at last so tired themselves that they could no longer stir their arms, they huddled the Princess's clothes about her, and put her out of the room, with a great deal of injurious language.

The Princess returned to her chamber, and feigning to be very ill, went to bed, and ordered that nobody should stay in the room but her nurse, to whom she recounted the whole story, and, tired with telling it, fell asleep.

Grognon's joy to hear that Graciosa was in such a weak condition, made her mend sooner than could have been expected; after which the nuptials were solemnized with a more than ordinary magnificence; and because the king knew that Grognon, above all things in the world, loved to be praised as a beauty, he caused her picture to be drawn, and proclaimed a tournament, wherein six of the bravest and most accomplished knights of the court, were to maintain against all gainsayers, that Grognon was the most beautiful princess in the world. Many knights and strangers came to maintain the contrary; and the

ugly queen was present at all the combats, placed in a balcony under a canopy of cloth of gold: where she had the pleasure to see her knights, by their strength and activity, victors in defence of her bad cause. Graciosa, who was placed behind her, drew the eyes of all the people upon her, while the silly and vain-glorious Grognon thought herself the only object of their admiration.

At last, when none seemed to be left that durst defy the champions of Grognon's beauty, on a sudden there arrived a young knight, holding in his hand a box that was set with diamonds: Immediately he caused proclamation to be made, that he would maintain Grognon to be the foulest and most deformed of all the sex, and that she, whose picture he had in his box, was the most beautiful virgin in the world. Having said this, he ran against all the six knights, and threw them to the ground. After which, six more presented themselves, one after another, till they numbered four and twenty; the young knight served them all alike; and then opening his box, he told the vanquished champions, that to convince them of their error, he would shew them his beautiful picture. Every body immediately knew it to be the princess Graciosa's, but who the young knight was, nobody could tell; who, after he had made a profound bow to his mistress, retired without telling his name: but Graciosa did not doubt he was her beloved Percinet.

The enraged Grognon, being almost choaked with anger, and unable to speak, made signs that it was Graciosa she would be at; and when she could explain herself, she fell a raving like a bedlamite. "How!" said she, "dispute with me the prize of beauty! What! bring her champion to affront my knights! No, it is not to be borne.——I will be revenged, or die." "Madam," replied the princess, "I protest to your majesty I have no hand in this unlucky accident; and, if you please, will sign it with my blood, that you are the most charming beauty in the world, and that I am a monster of deformity." "Oh! you are merry,

Mrs. Cock-a-Hoop," replied Grognon; "but I shall have my turn in a little time." Presently it was told the king in what a fury his wife was, and what a deadly fear the princess was in, who besought him to have pity on her; for that if he left her to the queen's indignation, she would shew her no mercy. But the king was not moved; and all his answer was, that as he had given up the princess into the power of her mother-in-law, she might do with her what she pleased.

The wicked Grognon waited with impatience for night; and when it was dark, ordered her coach to be got ready; forced Graciosa into it, and directed her to be carried, under a strong guard, a hundred leagues off, into a wide forest, through which nobody durst travel, because it was full of lions, bears, tigers, and wolves. When they were come into the midst of this forest, they ordered her to alight, and there left her, regardless of her tears and supplications for pity. "I beg not," said she, "my life at your hands; but only that you will vouchsafe me a speedy death; kill me, and at once deliver me from the many terrors, worse than death, that I am going to suffer." But she might as well have talked to so many statues, for they would not even give her an answer; and flying from her with unrelenting speed, left the fair unfortunate virgin all alone. Forsaken thus, and in the dark, she wandered for some time, not knowing whither she went, bruising herself sometimes against the trees, falling sometimes, and sometimes entangled among the thorns and bushes; till at length she sat down upon the ground, not having strength to stand on her feet. "Percinet," she cried sometimes to herself, "Oh Percinet! where art thou? Is it possible thou shouldst forsake me?" No sooner had she uttered these words, but she saw one of the most agreeable and surprising sights in the world: It was an illumination so splendid, that there was hardly a tree in the forest on which there did not hang several branches stuck with tapers; and at the bottom of a walk she

perceived a palace, which seemed to be all of crystal, and shone as bright as the sun. She secretly hoped Percinet had a hand in this pleasing enchantment; which hope inspired her with no small joy, though intermixed with fear. Her modesty and prudence, however, prevented her from proceeding, for she knew it was improper for young ladies even to converse with young men, much more to visit them. She therefore arose, faint and weary as she was, and, without so much as turning her eyes towards the fair castle, walked another way, so disturbed by the distraction of her thoughts, that she knew not what she did.

At this instant a noise, which she heard behind her, increased her fears, and made her apprehend some wild beast was coming to devour her; but looking, trembling, behind her, she perceived Percinet, who seemed more beautiful than love himself is painted. "What," said he, "my adorable princess, do you fly from me! Are you afraid of him who adores you? Can it be, that you should have so little knowledge of my respect, as to believe me capable of failing in the duty I owe you? Ah, no, cease your fears, and go with me to the palace of Fairy-land, where you will be received by the queen my mother, and my sisters, who already have a most tender affection for you, from the report I have made of your rare endowments." Graciosa, charmed with the submissive and obliging manner of her young lover's address, could not refuse to seat herself with him in a little calash, curiously painted and gilded, which two harts drew with such prodigious swiftness, that in a very short time he shewed her a thousand different parts of the forest, which filled her with admiration. Every thing might be distinctly seen: in one place, shepherds and shepherdesses, curiously dressed, were dancing to their flutes and bagpipes. "I thought," said she to Percinet, "this forest had been uninhabited; but to me it seems to be well peopled, and that the people live very happily." "Since your coming hither, my dear

princess," replied Percinet, "this gloomy solitude has been the seat of delights and pleasing amusements: the loves and graces all wait on you; and the flowers, daisies, and primroses, spring up under your feet." Graciosa durst make no reply, being unwilling to engage in such kind of compliments, and therefore desired the prince to carry her to the queen his mother.

Immediately he commanded the harts to hasten to the palace of Fairy-land, whither, when the princess came, her ears were entertained with the sweetest music; and the queen and her two daughters, who were all exquisitely beautiful, came forth to meet her, embraced her, and led her into a great room, the walls of which were of the finest crystal. There, with great astonishment, she observed the story of her life engraved to that very day, ending with the tour she had just taken in the forest with the prince in his calash. "Your historians are very quick," said Graciosa to Percinet, "for I perceive all the variety of my actions, or even gestures, are immediately recorded here." "The reason, my dear princess," replied Percinet, "is, because I would not lose the most minute idea of your perfections, but imprint them deeply on my heart; yet, alas! I am neither happy nor contented any where." She answered him not a word, but thanked the queen for her kind reception. Soon after a noble banquet was served up, and Graciosa ate with a good appetite, being overjoyed she had met with Percinet in the forest, where she had been afraid she should have found nothing but bears and lions.

And now the queen ordered the two princesses to conduct Graciosa to her apartment. Nothing was ever more magnificent than the chamber and furniture, nor so rich as the bed, where she was to lie. She was attended by four and twenty virgins, dressed like nymphs, the eldest of which was not above eighteen, and every one seemed to be a miracle of beauty. When she was in bed, a most heavenly symphony of music filled the room, to lull her to sleep; but her spirits were so agitated and disordered by these

surprizing things, that it was not in her power to close her eyes. "All that I have seen," said she, "must certainly be enchantments. Good heavens! that a prince so agreeable and witty should be so formidable! I cannot make too much haste from these enchanting places." Yet, when she considered the agreeable difference between living in so magnificent a palace, and exposing herself to the cruelty of the barbarous Grognon, she could not think of the separation without regret.

In the morning, as soon as she was up, she was presented with garments of all sorts and colours, and the richest jewels, laces, gloves, and silk stockings; all extremely fine, and admirable for the curiosity of their workmanship. Graciosa's dress was never before so splendid, nor did she ever more gracefully become it, nor appear more charming. When she was dressed, Percinet entered her chamber, habited in green and gold, for green was his colour, because Graciosa loved it. Whatever is admirable in shape, beauty of features, and majesty of mien, was all exquisitely perfect in Percinet. Graciosa told him she had not slept a wink all night; having been kept awake by the thoughts of her misfortunes; and that she could not but be apprehensive of the consequences. "What are your fears, madam?" replied Percinet; "you are absolute sovereign here, and are adored; will you then forsake me, and return to your most cruel enemy?" "Were I mistress of my own destiny," answered the princess, "I would willingly accept the choice you propose; but I am accountable for my actions to the king my father; and it is better, therefore, for me to suffer, than be wanting in my duty." Percinet omitted nothing that he could think of to persuade her to marry him; but she would by no means give her consent; and it was almost against her will that he detained her eight days; during which time he entertained her with a thousand new pleasures and diversions.

While she stayed, she several times expressed an

earnest desire to know what passed in Grognon's court; and what plausible stories she contrived to conceal the cruelty of her intentions. "Percinet told her he would send his squire, who was both witty and discreet. The princess replied, "she was persuaded he needed nobody to inform him, but might tell her himself." "Come then," said he, "with me to the great tower, and you shall there distinctly see with your own eyes what you desire to know." With that he led her to a tower that was prodigiously high, and all of crystal, like the rest of the castle. He bid her set her foot in a particular place, and put her little finger in his mouth, and then look towards the city. Which she had no sooner done, but she perceived the wicked Grognon sitting with the king, and heard her talking with him after this manner: "this poor wretch, the princess, with all her beauty, has hanged herself in the cellar; I have been to see her, and I protest the very sight of her frightened me: all that is now to be done is to bury her, and then I make no question but your majesty will soon forget so inconsiderable a loss." But the king wept, and bewailed the death of his daughter, while Grognon, deriding his sorrows, retired to her chamber; where, by her command, a large billet was presently dressed up in funeral pomp, and laid in a coffin, and the king immediately ordered a solemn interment. Infinite was the train of mourners that attended the hearse, weeping and wailing, and bitterly cursing the stepdame, whom they secretly accused as the cause of the princess's death. Every body went into deep mourning; and the princess could hear them lamenting to themselves, "what pity it was, so sweet and young a princess should perish through the cruelty of the wicked Grognon!" "It were a good deed," they cried, "to cut her to pieces, and cast her to the fowls of the air." The king also would neither eat nor drink, but grieved continually.

Graciosa seeing her father so extremely afflicted,

"Ah, Percinet," said she, "'tis impossible for me longer to bear that my father should think me dead; therefore, if you love me, carry me back again, that I may shew myself at court." Notwithstanding all his arguments, he could not prevail upon her to relinquish this request. "Dear princess," said he, "you will wish yourself again, more than once, in the palace of Fairy-land." But, whatever he could say, Graciosa insisted upon going: so, taking leave of the prince's mother and sisters, Percinet and she got into the calash, and the harts ran with the swiftness of arrows. When they were out of the precincts of the palace, Graciosa heard a great noise; and, looking behind her, beheld the whole edifice tumbled down, and shattered into a thousand pieces. "What miracle is this," cried she, "the place quite demolished!" "Yes, madam," replied Percinet, "I must have my palace among the dead, nor will you ever enter it again till your death." "Why are you angry?" replied Graciosa, endeavouring to pacify him, "all things considered, have not I more reason to complain than you?"

When they arrived at the court, Percinet so ordered it that himself, the princess, and the calash, became invisible; so that she went unseen till she came into the king's chamber, and threw herself at his feet. When the king saw her, he started up in fear, and was running away, taking her for a ghost: but she held him by his garment, and convinced him she was not dead; but that Grognon had caused her to be carried into a wild forest, where she had got into a tree, and lived upon the fruit. She added, that the queen had caused a billet to be buried instead of her; and besought him to send her to one of his remote castles, where she might not be exposed to the rage of her mother-in-law.

The king, doubting whether she spoke truth, sent to have the billet taken up, and being convinced of the imposture, was amazed at Grognon's wickedness, not imagining such malice could have been in a wo

man's breast. Any other king would have laid her in the billet's place: but he was a poor weak man, who had not courage to be angry in earnest: however, he caressed his daughter more than ever, and made her sup with him. But when Grognon's creatures acquainted her with the princess's return, and that she had supped with the king, her rage became perfect frenzy. She flew to the king's chamber, and told him, he must either deliver up his daughter to her that moment, or she would instantly be gone and never see him more; that he was a fool to believe she was Graciosa, though indeed she somewhat resembled her, for that Graciosa had certainly hanged herself; and that if he gave credit to the impostures of others, he had not the confidence and value which he ought to have for her. The king, not daring to resist, delivered up the unfortunate princess into her hands, believing, or feigning to believe, she was not his daughter.

Grognon, transported with joy, dragged the Princess, by the help of her women, into a dark dungeon, where she caused her to be stripped, covered her with coarse dirty rags and a nasty cap upon her head, hardly allowing her straw to lie upon, or bread to eat.

In this distress she wept bitterly, and wished herself again in the castle of Fairy-land; but she durst not call upon Percinet, conscious that she had not been so kind to him as she ought to have been, in having so ungratefully left the protection of his mother and sisters. In the mean time the wicked Grognon had sent for a fairy more malicious than herself, who being come, "I have got," said she, "a little saucy minx that vexes me to death; I would willingly punish her, by setting her some difficult tasks, which she not being able to accomplish, I may have a pretence to break her bones, and she no excuse: assist me, therefore, to find out some new punishment for her every day." The fairy answered she would consider of it, and return the next day. She was as good as her word, and brought with her a skein of thread, as wide about as

the waists of three people; so fine that it would hardly bear breathing upon; and so tangled, that neither beginning nor end were to be found. Grognon, overjoyed at the impossibility of this task; sent immediately for the lovely captive, and, with a smile of derision, "Here," said she, "prepare your clumsy paws to unravel this skein; and be assured if thou breakest the least bit, thou shalt dearly pay for it; for I will flay thee alive myself: Begin when you will, but I must have it unravelled before sun-set;" and, saying this, she shut her up in a chamber under three locks.

When the Princess was alone, she attempted the task, turned the skein a thousand ways, and broke it a thousand times; which so distracted her, that she gave over the attempt; and throwing it in the middle of the room, "Go, fatal skein" said she, "lie there, since thou it is that art to be the occasion of my death. Oh, Percinet, Percinet! if my severity has not given too great a repulse to your friendship, though I cannot hope your assistance, yet come, however, and receive my last Farewell." Saying this, she fell a weeping so bitterly, that any thing less sensible than such a friend would have been moved to compassion. Percinet immediately opened the door with the same ease as if he had the keys in his pocket. "Here I am, dear Princess," said he, "always ready for your service;" having said this, he struck three times with his wand upon the skein; and immediately the threads untwisted, and closed one to the other; and with two more strokes the whole was unravelled with surprising ease: which done, he asked her, whether she had any other service to command him, and whether she intended never to bear his company, but in her distresses? "Upbraid me not, sweet Percinet," cried she, "I am already too unfortunate."—"Oh Princess," replyed Percinet, "it is your own fault that you are not absolutely delivered from this insulting tyranny, to which you are a victim. Go with me, make your felicity mine, and mine your's; what are you afraid of?" "That you love me not with a sincere and lasting affection," replied the Princess: "I

am desirous that time should confirm the truth of the sentiments you express for me." Percinet, being offended, took his leave and left her.

The sun was just setting, when Grognon, who waited for the close of the evening with the greatest impatience, came with her four furies, who attended her wherever she went. She put her three keys into the three locks, and as she opened the door, "Well!" said she, "I suppose my beautiful idler has been afraid to make use of her ten fingers.—Aye, aye, she had rather sleep to preserve her complexion. However, when she was entered, Graciosa presented her the skein, wherein there was not a thread amiss; so that all Grognon could say was, that she had sullied it, and was an awkward creature; for which she gave her two such unmerciful blows on her fair cheeks, which were of the colour of the lily and the rose, that they became black and blue. The unfortunate Graciosa, who was forced to suffer patiently what she could not avoid, was after this locked close up again in her dungeon.

Grognon, amazed that she had succeeded no better with her skein of thread, sent for the fairy again, and reproached her in very passionate terms: "Find me out something else," said she, "so difficult as may amount to an impossibility." The fairy went away, and the next day returned with a great tub full of feathers of all sorts of birds; as nightingales, canary-birds, robin-redbreasts, goldfinches, linnets, parrots, owls, sparrows, pigeons, ostriches, bustards, peacocks, larks, partridges, and an infinite number more, which I am not able to name; and these feathers were so intermixed, that the birds themselves would never have been able to have known their own apparel. "Here," said the fairy to Grognon, "is that will try the wit and patience of your captive: command her to separate these feathers, and lay the plumage of every one of these birds by itself; which is a task would puzzle her, were she a fairy herself." Grognon was in an ecstasy of joy, only at the bare thoughts of the Princess's perplexity. She sent for her, and after having terrified her with a

thousand menaces, she shut her up with the feathers in a chamber under three locks, as before; giving her to understand, that she expected her work should be done before sun-set.

Graciosa took some of the feathers, and looked upon them; but finding it impossible to know the difference of one bird's feathers from those of another, she threw them back into the tub. Yet she made several essays; but the oftener she tried, the more impossible she found her task. So that, at length, overwhelmed with grief and despair, I must die, cried she, with a lamentable voice; it is my death that is sought for, and only that can put an end to my miseries. Injured Percinet has left me too, no doubt; and to call on him for succour would be in vain; for, had he any pity for me, he would have been here ere now.

"Dear Graciosa, I am here," cried Percinet, starting up from under the feathers, where he lay hid: "I am ready to deliver you from all your troubles; and now, after so many proofs of my fidelity, can you any longer suspect the sincerity of my affection, or think I do not love you better than my life?" Saying this, he struck three times with his wand upon the tub, and immediately the feathers flew out, and sorted themselves in little heaps about the room. "I am infinitely obliged to you, sir," said Graciosa: "but for you, I must have been lost; and be assured I will not be ungrateful."

Grognon came exactly at her hour; but was amazed and confounded to see her designs again defeated; she, however, bestowed some blows upon Graciosa, pretending the feathers were not laid even. She sent for the fairy directly, and fell into such a rage against her, that she knew not what to say, being herself quite confounded. At length the fairy promised to use her utmost art in making a box, which, if her curiosity ever tempted her to open, should puzzle her to shut again, beyond all the arts in Fairy-land to help her: Accordingly, some days after, she brought

this box, which was somewhat large. "Here," said she to Grognon, "send your captive somewhere with this box; but forbid her to open it, and then she certainly will; and you will have your desire." Grognon, observing the fairy's directions, "Here," said she to her fair captive, "carry this box to my rich castle, and set it upon a table in my cabinet; but, upon pain of death, I command you not to look what is in it."

Graciosa, having put on her wooden clogs, her canvas gown, and her woollen cap, set out on her journey. All that met her cried, certainly there goes some goddess in disguise; for the poverty of her dress could not conceal her wonderful beauty. However, she began to be tired with her journey; and, coming into a little wood, surrounded with delightful meadows, she sat down to rest herself; having set the box upon her knees, her curiosity on a sudden prompted her to open it. "What can be the danger?" said she to herself; "I shall take nothing out of it, and would only see what is in it;" so, reflecting no farther upon the consequences, she opened the box; when immediately out came a great many little men and women, violins, instruments, little pictures, little cooks, and little dishes; in short, the giant of the whole company was not higher than your little finger: They danced in the meadows; divided themselves in companies, and began the pleasantest ball that was ever seen; some skipped and capered about; others acted as cooks; some eat and drank; and the little violins played to a miracle. Graciosa, for some time, was delighted with the sight, thinking to recall the merry wantons into the box; but not one of them would return; the little gentlemen and ladies betook themselves to their heels; the violins ran away; the cooks, with their pots upon their heads, and their spits upon their shoulders, flew from her like so many birds; and when she followed them into the wood, they got into the meadows; when she ran after them into the meadows, they flew into the wood. "Oh indiscreet curi-

osity!" cried Graciosa weeping, "Now my enemies will prevail; the only misfortune I could have prevented, is befallen me through my own folly; no, I cannot sufficiently blame myself. Oh! Percinet! Percinet! if it be possible for thee still to love a princess so imprudent, assist me once more, in this most perilous accident that ever threatened my life."

Percinet did not stay to be called thrice, but appeared immediately in his green habit: saying, "were it not for the wicked Grognon, he supposed Graciosa would never think of him." "Have a better opinion of my sentiments," replied the princess; "I am neither insensible of merit, nor ungrateful for kindnesses received. It is true, I have put your constancy to trials; but it is to crown it when I am convinced of it." Percinet, being now better pleased than ever, gave three strokes with his wand upon the box, and immediately the little gentlemen and ladies, the violins, the cooks with their roast meat, in short, the whole of this diminutive company placed themselves again in the box, as if they had never been out of it; which done, Percinet, who had left his chariot in the wood, desired the princess to use it the remaining part of her journey to the castle; and, indeed, she had no small need of such a convenience, considering the condition she was in. So, having rendered her invisible, he conducted her himself, and by that means had the pleasure of her company.

Thus she arrived at the rich castle; but when she demanded the key of the cabinet, in Grognon's name, the governor burst out a laughing.—"How!" said he, "hast thou the confidence to think shepherds' girls are ever admitted into queen's cabinets! Go, go, get thee gone, wooden clogs and hobnails never yet defiled these glittering floors." Graciosa desired him to write a line why he had refused her entrance, which he readily did. So leaving the castle, she was received by the amiable Percinet, who waited for her, and conducted her back to the King's palace. It would be difficult to relate all the tender and respectful argu-

ments he used by the way, to persuade her to put an end to her misfortunes. To which she replied, that if Grognon imposed upon her any more of these impossible commands, she would yield him her consent.

When the enraged stepdame saw the Princess had re turned, she flew upon the Fairy, whom she had detained with her all the while, fastened her claws in her wrinkled cheeks, and would have throttled her too, had it been possible to strangle a fairy. Graciosa presented her the governor's letter and the box; but she threw both into the fire, not vouchsafing to open them; and had she thought of it, would have thrown the princess after them; but she did not defer her punishment long.

She caused a great hole to be made in the garden, as deep as a well, and a great stone to be laid over the mouth of it. Then taking occasion to walk in the garden, she said to Graciosa, and the rest that attended her, "Under that stone, as I am informed, there lies concealed immense treasure, let us go and remove it." Upon this they all set their hands to it, and Graciosa among the rest; which was what Grognon desired; for as the princess stood by the side of the hole, Grognon pushed her in, and then rolled the stone over it again.

This stroke appeared to be past remedy; for how could Percinet find her, buried thus in the earth? she herself despaired, and repented she had so long delayed to marry him. "How terrible is my destiny," cried she: "this kind of death is more dreadful than any other. Oh, Percinet! you are sufficiently revenged for my scrupulous reluctancy. Yet," continued she, "if I could but hope you would shew some regret for the loss of me, I should be less sensible of my misfortune." She was lamenting in this manner to ease her sorrows, when she perceived a little door open, which she had not seen before, by reason of the obscurity: At the same time she also saw daylight, and a garden full of flowers, fruits, fountains, grottos, statues, groves, and arbours; she went in, and

walked forward into a spacious valley, wondering what would be the event of this extraordinary beginning. Soon after she discovered the castle of Fairy-land, which she easily knew again; for a castle made all of crystal, with the history of one's life engraved therein, is no very common sight. Percinet appeared, too, together with the queen his mother, and his sisters. "Fair princess," said the queen to Graciosa, "it is time now you would consent; make my son most happy, and free yourself from that deplorable condition wherein you live under the tyranny of Grognon."

The grateful princess fell upon her knees, and told the queen she might dispose of her destiny, and that she would obey her in all things; that she now discovered the truth of Percinet's prediction, when he foretold her, that his palace should be among the dead, and she never enter it again, till she had been buried; that she was amazed at his knowledge, that his merit was no less her admiration, and therefore she accepted him for her husband. Now the prince, in his turn, threw himself at her feet; the whole palace resounded with music and acclamations of joy, and the nuptials were solemnized with the greatest magnificence. All the fairies for a thousand miles round came thither in the most sumptuous equipages; some in chariots drawn by swans, others by dragons; some rode upon the clouds, and others in globes of fire. Among the latter appeared the fairy, who assisted Grognon to torment Graciosa. When she knew who it was, she was in the greatest surprise; besought her to forget what had passed, and said she would endeavour to make her amends for the evils she had caused her to suffer; and it is certain that she did not stay out the festival, but, re-mounting her chariot, drawn by two terrible serpents, she flew to the king's palace; and finding Grognon out, wrung off her neck, notwithstanding all the guards and women could do to prevent it.

Graciosa and Percinet.

The Blue Bird.

THE BLUE BIRD.

There was once a king, potent both by his dominions and treasures; but losing a virtuous wife, he became inconsolable. He shut himself up for eight days together in a little cabinet, where he bruised his head against the walls, so greatly was he afflicted; his servants being afraid, lest he should kill himself, they conveyed mats between the walls and the hangings, to prevent him doing himself any mischief. All his subjects resolved to wait upon him, and try the most proper consolations to assuage his grief. Some prepared grave and serious discourses; others, pleasing and delightful stories; and others quaint and merry tales. But all this made no impression upon his mind; for he gave little or no attention to what they said. At length a woman presented herself before him, so muffled up in black cypress veils and mantles, and weeping and sobbing so bitterly and so loud, that the king was strangely surprised at it. She told him she came not to lessen his sorrows, but rather to increase them, as nothing could be more justly lamented than the loss of a good wife: that, for her part, having lost the best of husbands, she was resolved to weep for him as long as she had any eyes: and thereupon redoubling her lamentations, the king, in imitation of her, did the like.

He received her more kindly than any body; he told her a thousand stories of his wife's good qualities: the woman, too, enlarged upon the virtues of her deceased husband; and thus they talked over their stock of sorrow till it was quite spent, and neither had any more to say, nor one tear to shed. Now when the artful widow saw the king's supplies of grief were all exhausted, she withdrew her veils a little, and the afflicted king refreshed his sight with looking upon the countenance of his companion in despair, who

rolled two fine blue eyes, arched with beautiful black brows; and shewed also an agreeable countenance. The king viewed her wistfully, and by degrees talked less of his wife, and by-and-by said no more of her. But the widow continuing to say she would never leave off weeping for her husband, the king desired her not to perpetuate her grief: and, to conclude, all the world was astonished to see them in a few days married together, and the doleful sable changed into green and rose-colour. It is frequently only necessary to find out the foible of people, in order to gain their affections, and make them do just what you please.

The king had only one daughter by his first wife, who was looked upon as the eighth wonder of the world, and, because of her youth, beauty, and blooming complexion, was called Florina. She was never seen to wear rich apparel, rather chusing plain vestments, fastened with a few diamonds, and many flowers, which had an admirable effect when they were placed in her beautiful tresses. She was fifteen years of age when the king married again.

The new queen sent for her own daughter, who had been bred up with her godmother, the fairy Soussio; but for all that she was neither better dispositioned, nor more beautiful. Yet though Soussio's endeavours in her education had failed, she, however, loved her dearly; and she was called Truitonne, because her face was speckled like the back of a trout; her black hair was so foul and so greasy, that nobody could touch it, and her tawny skin constantly distilled oil. The queen too, loved her even to a degree of folly, and talked of nothing but her charming Truitonne: And because Florina had all manner of advantages over her, the queen grew quite impatient of her, and sought by all manner of means to make the king displeased with her: There was not a day passed but the queen and Truitonne did some injury to Florina; but the princess being of a mild and sensible disposition, endeavoured to set herself above these mean artifices of narrow-souled malice.

The king one day said to the queen, that Florina and Truitonne were big enough to be married, and that he would endeavour to bestow one of them upon the first prince that came to the court. "I expect," replied the queen, "that my daughter shall be first considered, and, as she is older than your's, and infinitely more amiable, there can be no doubt about it.

The king, who loved peace and quietness, said she was in the right, and that it should be just as she had a mind.

Some time after, news was brought that the charming king was coming: Never any prince transcended him in gallantry and magnificence; nor was there any thing in his mind or person but what was perfectly answerable to his name. When the queen heard the news, she set all her embroiderers, milliners, and other tire-women at work, to make clothes for Truitonne; she also begged the king not to let Florina have any thing new; and having bribed her women, she caused all her apparel, jewels, and ornaments of every kind, to be stolen the very day the charming king arrived, so that when Florina went to dress herself, she could not find so much as a ribband. She was at no loss to imagine who had done her this good office; so she sent to the shops for more silk, but the mercers sent her word the queen had forbid them to sell her any. So she was forced to content herself with an ordinary gown, which made her so ashamed, that she placed herself in a corner of the room when the charming king appeared.

The queen received him with al' the ceremonies imaginable; she presented him her daughter, more glittering than the sun, yet more conspicuously deformed in these splendid trappings than usually she seemed to be. The king turned away his eyes, and would not even look upon her; though the queen flattered herself that she pleased him exceedingly, only that he was afraid of being engaged too suddenly; so she continued to place her in his eye. But instead of courting Truitonne, he asked "whether there were

not yet another princess, called Florina?" "Yes," said Truitonne, pointing to her with her finger, "there she is hiding herself in a corner, because she truly thinks herself not dressed fine enough to shew herself." Florina blushed, and looked so lovely, that the charming king, in raptures at the sight of her, immediately rose and made her a profound reverence: "Madam," said he, "you are too well adorned by your incomparable beauty to have occasion for any foreign garments." "Sir," replied she, "I am not accustomed to be dressed in this manner, and you would have done me a favour to have taken no notice of me." "It would have been impossible," cried the charming king, "that so wonderful a princess should have been in any place where admiration and respect could have eyes for any other object." "Oh, sir," said the queen, in a passion, "I come not hither to hear all this extravagance. "Believe me, sir, Florina is coquette enough already. She has no occasion to be gallanted in this manner." The charming king immediately perceived the motives which made the queen talk in this manner, but as neither his rank nor inclination inclined him to put any constraint upon himself, he continued to shew his admiration of Florina, and discoursed with her nearly three hours.

The queen, in rage and despair, and Truitonne, no less inconsolable, to see the princess preferred before her, made loud complaints to the king, and forced him to consent, that while the charming king staid, Florina should be confined in a tower, where nobody could see her. Accordingly, as she was entering her apartment, four men in masks seized and carried her to the top of the tower, where they left her in solitude and darkness, and overwhelmed with sorrow: for she well knew she was used thus only to prevent her being seen by the charming king, for whom she had already conceived an affection, and would gladly have married him.

The charming king was ignorant of the violence

which had been done to the princess, and waited with impatience to see her again; he talked of her to those whom the king had sent to wait upon him, but they had orders from the queen to speak all the ill they could imagine of her. They told him she was a coquette, vain, inconstant, and ill-tempered; that she tormented her friends and servants, and was so covetous that she rather chose to appear like a poor shepherdess, than lay out the money which her father allowed her to by rich habits. The charming king gave a hearing to all this; but was so provoked, that he could hardly contain his anger. "No," said he to himself, "it is impossible that heaven can have placed so bad a mind in a form so wonderfully beautiful. She was, indeed, not properly dressed when I saw her; but her blushes on that account plainly proved she was not accustomed to it. What! can she be ill-natured with that enchanting air of modesty and sweetness? No, I rather believe it is the queen, who thus defames her in order to recommend her own daughter, Truitonne, who is too deformed and disagreeable for any one to have a personal regard for her."

While he was thus reasoning with himself, the courtiers who surrounded him divined by his countenance that they had not pleased him by speaking ill of Florina. But there was one among them more adroit and cunning than the others, who changing his tone and his language, on purpose to sound the prince's sentiments, began to speak highly in praise of the princess. Upon which the charming king started like a man of a sudden wakened out of a profound sleep, joined the conversation, joy diffused itself over his countenance, and he appeared quite another man. Oh love! how difficult is it to conceal thee! When a man is in love, every thing betrays the sentiments of his heart.

The queen, impatient to know the charming king's sentiments, sent for her confidants, and put to them questions, but their answers only confirmed her fears that he was in love with Florina. In the mean

time, in what a condition was the poor princess! She lay all night upon the bare ground in that dismal dungeon into which the four men in masks had carried her. "I should have had less reason to complain," said she, "had they confined me here before I had seen this amiable king: for now the idea of his perfections, which is so deeply imprinted in my mind, only serves to augment my sufferings: I doubt not but the queen thus cruelly exerts her tyranny over me, to prevent my ever seeing him again. Alas, that little beauty which heaven has bestowed, how dear will it cost me! how fatal will it be to my repose!" Saying this, she wept so bitterly, that even her enemies, had they been witnessess of her afflictions, must have pitied her.

Thus passed away that night; and the queen, who was desirous to engage the charming king, by all the demonstrations she could possibly give him of her regard, sent him garments made after the fashion of the country, of inimitable richness and magnificence, together with the order of the knights of love, which she had obliged the king to institute upon the day of their nuptials. The ensign of this order was a heart of gold enamelled with flame colour, encompassed with several arrows, and pierced through with one, with this device, *one, only, wounds me.* The queen had caused a ruby, as big as an Ostrich's egg, to be cut into the shape of a heart; every arrow was an entire diamond as long as your finger; and the chain which held the heart was made of pearls, the least of which weighed a pound. In short, the like was never seen since the world was a world.

The charming king was so surprized at the sight of it that for some time he could not speak a word. At the same time they also presented him a book, the leaves of which were of vellum, embellished with admirable miniatures; the cover of gold, set with precious stones: In this book, in the most tender and polite style, were curiously written the statutes of the order of love. The charming king was told, that the

princess whom he had seen requested him to be her knight, and had sent him that present. "How!" cried he, "does the fair princess Florina think upon me in such a generous and obliging manner!" "No, sir," said the messengers, "you mistake the name; we come from the amiable Truitonne." "Is it Truitonne that would have me be her knight?" said the king, with a cold and serious air; "I am sorry I cannot accept the honour. A sovereign is not so much master of himself, as to undertake all engagements that are offered him. I know the duties of a knight, and what I undertake I would fulfil; I had rather not receive the favours she offers me, than render myself unworthy of it." Saying this he immediately replaced the heart, the chain, and the book, in the same manner they were brought, and sent all back again to the queen, who, together with her daughter, were ready to burst with rage at the contempt with which the charming king had received so particular a favour.

So soon as he could go to wait upon the king and queen, he repaired to the court, in hopes to see Florina there; he looked round him every way, and when any body entered the apartment, he immediately turned his head towards the door, in visible anxiety. The malicious queen easily perceived what passed in his mind; but seeming to take no notice of it, she talked to him of nothing but parties of pleasure; to all which he constantly gave wrong answers: and at length asked her in downright terms where the princess Florina was? "Sir," said she, with the fierceness of a tygress, "the king her father has forbid her to stir out of her chamber, till my daughter is married." "And what reason," replied the charming king, "is there for keeping this amiable lady prisoner?" "I know not," answered the queen; "or if I did, I should not make you acquainted with it." The king was highly incensed at this reply; he looked upon Truitonne with an eye of contempt, imagining that it was for the sake of that lump of deformity, that he was deprived of the pleasure of seeing the princess, and quitted the

queen in a surly haste, not enduring the sight of persons who were the cause of his anguish.

When he was returned to his apartment, he told a young prince who accompanied him, and for whom he had a very great regard, that he would give the world to gain one of the princess's women, whereby he might have a moment's conversation with her. The prince soon found ladies, who engaged to gain him what he wished; and one of them assured him that Florina should be at a little window, that looked into the garden, where they might converse together, provided he was cautious to prevent their being discovered; for, added she, the king and queen are so severe, that they would put me to death, were they to know that I favoured the charming king's passion. The prince, overjoyed to have brought the affair to such perfection, promised her whatever she desired, and flew to acquaint the charming king with the hour of rendezvous. But the treacherous confidant went and informed the queen of all that had passed between the prince and her. The queen immediately resolved to send her own daughter to the window; for which purpose she gave her such proper instructions, that Truitonne failed in nothing, though she was naturally a great fool.

The night was so dark, that the charming king could never have perceived the trick put upon him, even had he been less prepossessed than he was; so that he approached the window with inexpressible transports of joy, and said every thing to Truitonne that he would have said to Florina, to convince her of his regard for her. Truitonne, to carry on the deceit, told him she was the most unfortunate person in the world to have so cruel a step-mother; but that she must be contented to suffer until her daughter was married. The charming king assured her, that if she would accept of him for a husband, it would give him the highest pleasure to share with her both his crown and his heart. Saying this, he pulled his ring from his finger, and put it upon Truitonne's, adding, "it was an eter-

nal pledge of his faith, and that she need only to make her escape as soon as she could. Truitonne answered his importunities as well as she could; and the king did not leave her till she had promised to meet him the next day at the same place.

The Queen being informed of the good success of this interview, assured herself of a happy conclusion. In short, the day being fixed, the charming king came in a flying calash, drawn by winged frogs, which an enchanter, a friend of his, had made him a present of. The night was very dark, Truitonne came out softly through a little door, and the king, who waited for her, receiving her in his arms, renewed his vows of eternal fidelity; and, as he was not disposed to fly far in his chaise, before they were married, he asked where she would have the ceremony performed? She answered, that her godmother, a celebrated fairy, named Soussio, lived not far off, and that if he thought fit, she would go to her castle. Though the king knew not the way, he had only to tell his frogs to carry him thither, for they were acquainted with the whole world, and in a short time brought the king and Truitonne to Soussio's residence.

The castle was so brightly illuminated, that the charming king would soon have discovered his error, if Truitonne had not been very careful to keep her veil over her face. She asked for her godmother, spoke to her apart, told her how she had deceived the charming king, and begged of her to appease him. "Alas! child," said the fairy, "this will not be easy to do; he loves Florina too well; and I am but too certain he will soon destroy all our hopes." All this while the charming king stayed in a room, the walls of which were of diamonds, so clear and transparent, that he saw through them Soussio and Truitonne consulting together. He thought himself in a dream. "How," said he, "have I been betrayed? Have the demons brought this enemy of our repose hither? Comes she to disturb our nuptials? But where is my dear Florina, that she appears not? Surely I brought

her along with me—for nobody took her from me by the way."—Thus a thousand different imaginations distracted his senses. But it was still worse; Soussio and Truitonne entered the room together, and Soussio, with an imperious tone, said, "charming king, here is the princess to whom you have plighted your faith. She is my god-daughter, and I desire you would marry her immediately." "Who, I!" cried the charming king, "I marry that monster! Sure you think I am very easy to persuade, or you would not make me such a proposal. No—no—I never made her any promise! and if she says the contrary, she—" "Hold," cried Soussio, interrupting him, "and be not so rash in the respect you owe." "I respect you," replied the charming king, "as much as a fairy ought to be respected, provided you restore me my princess." "Why, am not I your princess, perjured prince?" cried Truitonne, shewing him his ring. "To whom didst thou give this jewel for a pledge of thy faith? To whom didst thou vow and protest at the little window, if it was not to me?" "How!" replied he, "I have been cheated and deceived then! No, no,—I will not be your dupe, however.—Come, my pretty frogs, let us be gone, I will not stay a minute longer here."

"Hold," cried Soussio, "that is not in your power, unless I consent:" with that she touched him, and his feet became fastened to the floor. "Though you turn me into stone," said the charming king; "though you flay me alive, Florina only shall have my heart; I will be her's, and only her's: this is my resolution, and you may use your power as you please." Soussio employed gentle persuasions, menaces, promises, prayers: and Truitonne wept, cried, sighed, sobbed; sometimes was enraged, and then became calm again: during all which the king said not a word; but, looking upon both with an air of indignation and contempt, he gave no answer to any thing they said.

Twenty days and twenty nights passed in this manner, during which time they never ceased talking,

nor ever eat, drank, slept, or sat down the whole time. At length, Soussio, being quite tired, said to the king, "Well, I see you are resolved not to hear reason; and therefore chuse you either to undergo seven years' penance for breaking your plighted faith, or else to marry my god-daughter." The king, who had hitherto kept a profound silence, cried out of a sudden, "Do with me what you please, so I am but delivered from this ugly beast. "No more a beast than yourself," cried Truitonne in a passion—"You are a pretty gentleman, indeed, with your croaking equipage, to come into my country to abuse me, and break your word. If you had a grain of honour in you, you would behave in a different manner." "Oh, these are killing reproaches, indeed," replied the king laughing; "who would not be glad of such a lovely person for a wife?" "'Tis very well," cried Soussio in a rage, "and therefore you shall not have her: You may fly out of the window, if you please; for you shall be a blue bird for seven years to come."

The shape of the king's body instantly began to change; his arms were covered with feathers, and transformed into wings; his legs and feet became black and slender, with little claws instead of toes; his body lessened to the size of a dove, adorned with fine smooth feathers of a bright sky blue; his eyes grew round, quick, and sparkling, like two stars; his nose was changed to an ivory beak: and from his head rose up a white tuft in the form of a crown. He sung to admiration, and had the use of speech also. In this condition he fetched a deep sigh, to see himself so metamorphosed, and, spreading his wings, flew from Soussio's fatal palace.

Thus overwhelmed with melancholy, he hopped from bough to bough, and made choice only of those trees which were consecrated either to love or sadness; sometimes upon myrtles, sometimes upon cypress; he sung none but mournful airs, wherein he deplored his own and his Florina's misfortune. "Where,"

said he, "have her malicious enemies concealed her? What is become of the fair victim? Where shall I find her out? Does the barbarous queen yet suffer her to breathe? Where shall I seek her? Am I condemned to waste away seven whole years without her? Perhaps in this time they will marry her, and I shall for ever lose the hope which keeps me alive." These various thoughts afflicted the poor blue bird to such a degree that he wished himself dead.

On the other side, the fairy Soussio sent Truitonne back to the queen, who laboured under great impatience to know how the nuptials were concluded. But when she saw her daughter, and had received from her a full relation of what had happened, she fell into a violent rage, the dire effects of which fell all upon the poor Florina; "I'll make her dearly repent," said she, "her having pleased the charming king." Saying this, she immediately ascended the tower with Truitonne, whom she had dressed in her richest habits. Truitonne wore a crown of diamonds upon her head, and three daughters of the greatest lords in the kingdom bore up the train of her royal mantle. She had also upon her finger, the charming prince's ring, which Florina had observed upon his finger when they discoursed together. And this, together with Truitonne's pompous dress, surprised her extremely. "Here is my daughter come," said the queen, "to bring you her nuptial presents: the charming king has married her, and loves her to distraction; never, indeed, were any pair better satisfied." Immediately they spread before the princess, several stuffs of gold and silver, precious stones, laces, ribbons, all in large baskets of filigree-work in gold; and as they delivered these presents, Truitonne took care to make the charming king's ring sparkle with its greatest lustre: so that Florina, no longer questioning the truth of her misfortune, with an air of the utmost grief and despair, desired them to take the fatal presents from her sight; saying she should never desire to wear any thing but black for the future; but that she

should rather wish to have a speedy death. Saying this, she fell into a swoon, and the cruel queen, overjoyed at the success of her deceit, would not suffer any one to help her; but left her alone in that deplorable condition, and went with a malicious tale to the king, that his daughter was so transported with tenderness, that nothing could equal her extravagances; and that it behoved him to take care how he let her stir out of the tower. To which the king answered, that she might do what she pleased; and that he should always be satisfied with whatever she did.

When the princess came to herself, and considered how barbarously she was used by her unworthy stepmother; and that all hopes of ever marrying the charming king were entirely vanished; her grief became so violent, that she wept all night, and in this condition went to the window, where she vented her sorrows in tender and moving lamentations till day began to approach; and then, shutting the window, she renewed her sorrows.

The night following she opened the window, and vented the deepest sighs and sobs, shed a torrent of tears, and when day appeared, concealed herself in her chamber as before. In the mean time, the charming king, or to speak more properly, the charming blue bird, ceased not to hover about the palace, believing that his beloved princess must be shut up in it; and if she made such sad complaints, his were no less deplorable; he got as close to the windows as he could, that he might look into the chambers; but his fears, lest Truitonne should perceive him, and imagine it was he, hindered him from doing what he would. "It is as much as my life is worth," said he to himself; "for if these wicked princesses should discover where I am, they would certainly be revenged upon me. I must either keep at a distance, or expose myself to imminent dangers." These reasons obliged the blue bird to be very cautious; and he seldom sung but in the night time.

Opposite the window where Florina placed herself,

there grew a cypress tree of a prodigious height, in which the blue bird came and perched; but had scarce settled on it, when he heard the complaints of somebody in deep distress. "And must I long be a sufferer?" said she, "and will death always refuse to come to my relief? They who fear it, meet it but too soon: I desire it, but it cruelly flies me. Ah, barbarous, inexorable queen! how have I offended you, that thus you detain me in this horrid captivity? Have you not other means enough to afflict me? You need only make me a witness of your unworthy daughter's happiness with the charming king." The blue bird lost not a tittle of this complaint; he was strangely surprised at it, and waited impatiently for day, that he might have a sight of the afflicted lady; but before he could see her, she had shut the window and was retired.

The inquisitive bird failed not to return the next night; the moon shone clear, and he saw a lady at the window of the tower, who renewed her lamentations. "Fortune," said she, thou that once didst flatter me with the hopes of a kingdom, thou that madest me the joy of my father, what have I done, that thou shouldest plunge me thus into an abyss of sorrow and affliction? must I, at an age so tender as mine, begin to feel the violent effects of thy inconstancy? Oh, barbarous fortune! relent, relent, if it be possible; I request no other favour from thee, but a period to my misfor-fortunes." The blue bird attentively listened to all this; and the more he listened, the more he was convinced it was his lovely princess who made these complaints. "Adorable Florina," said he, "the wonder of our days! why would you so soon cut the thread of your own life? your misfortunes are not without remedy." "Oh! who's that speaks," cried she, "such words of consolation to a grieved soul?" "An unfortunate king," replied the bird, "who loves you, and will never love any other." "A king that loves me!" added she; "what artifice is this my persecuting enemy is now contriving to ensnare me with? But what will she

get by it? If she seeks to discover my thoughts, I am ready to confess to her." "No, Princess, no," replied the blue bird, "the lover that speaks to you is not capable of treachery." And so saying he flew to the window. Florina, at first, was afraid of a bird so extraordinary, that spoke with as much wit as if he had been a man, though with the voice of a nightingale; but the beauty of his feathers, and what he spake, dissipated her fears. "Am I permitted to see you once again, dear Princess?" cried the bird, "can I taste a happiness so perfect, and not die for joy? But, alas! how is this joy disturbed by your captivity, and the condition to which the wicked Soussio has reduced me for seven years!" "And who are you, my charming bird," replied the Princess, caressing and stroking him? "You have repeated my name," added the King, "and yet you feign as if you did not know me." "How!" said the Princess, "is it possible that the greatest king in the world, the charming king, should be that little bird which I hold in my hand?" "Alas!" fair Florina, 'tis too true," replied the bird;" and if there be any thing that can give me comfort, it is that I endure this punishment, rather than renounce my passion for you." "For me!" said Florina, "Oh seek not to deceive me. I know, I know too well, that you are married to Truitonne: I saw your ring upon her finger; I saw her quite brilliant with the lustre of those diamonds which you gave her. She came to insult me in my sad imprisonment, with a sumptuous crown upon her head, and a royal mantle, which you had given her."

"Did you behold Truitonne in such an equipage?" said the king; "Did the mother and the daughter dare to say, those jewels came from me?—Oh, Heavens! is it possible for me to hear such horrid falsehoods, yet not be able to shew my revenge!" Know then, they contrived to deceive me by counterfeiting your person, and engaged me to carry off the deformed Truitonne instead of you; but as soon as I perceived my error, I abandoned her, and rather chose

to be a blue bird for seven years together, than fail in my fidelity to fair Florina."

The pleasure which Florina took to hear her royal lover talk in this manner, was so great, that she no longer remembered the misery of her imprisonment. She omitted nothing that wit could invent to comfort him for the misfortune of his transformation, and to convince him that she would do as much for him, as he had done for her. But by this time day appeared, and the greatest part of the officers about the court were stirring, so that they were forced to part, though with the greatest unwillingness, after having promised thus to entertain each other every night.

They were so overjoyed that they had found each other, that it is hardly in the power of words to express it. Nevertheless, Florina was in great trouble every day for the blue bird. "Who shall secure him," said she, "from the busy fowlers, or from the claws of some half-famished vulture or eagle, who will make no more of devouring him than if he were a common bird? Oh, heavens! what would become of me, if once these light and delicate feathers, driven by the wind, should reach my window, the unhappy messengers of the disaster which I fear!" This very thought would not suffer the princess to close her eyes; for when people truly love, illusions seem to be real truths; and what we would have thought impossible at another time, appears to be easy then: so that she spent the day in tears, till the hour was come that called her to the window.

The charming bird, hid in the hollow of a tree, had spent the day in thinking upon his lovely princess: "How happy," said he, "am I, that I have found her! how engaging, how endearing is she! how deeply sensible am I of her goodness!" and then reflecting upon the tedious hours of his penance, that hindered him from marrying, he relapsed into his melancholy, looking upon every minute to be no less than the tedious delay of a thousand years. Nevertheless, as he resolved to shew Florina all the gallantry in his

power, he flew to the capital city of his kingdom, went directly to his palace, and, getting into his cabinet through a hole in the glass that was broken, took from thence a pair of diamond pendants, so perfect and so beautiful, as not to be paralleled in all the world, and brought them to Florina, desiring her to wear them for his sake. "I would consent," said she, "were you to see me in the day; but since we can only talk together in the dark, it will be to no purpose." The blue bird promised to watch his opportunities so well, that he would come to the tower at whatever hour she pleased. She then put on her pendants, and they passed the night in sweet conversation, as they had done the former.

The next day the blue bird flew again to his kingdom, went to his palace, and entering his cabinet, brought away the richest bracelets that ever were seen: they were made of one entire emerald, cut into focets, and hollowed through the middle for the hand and arm to pass. "Think ye," said the princess, "that my sentiments for you have any need of being improved by presents? Alas! you are but ill acquainted with them." "No, madam," replied the blue bird, "I do not imagine the trifles which I offer you are necessary for the preservation of your tenderness: but I should injure my own affection, did I neglect any opportunity of demonstrating my desire to serve you; and when I am absent from your sight, these trifles will recall me to your remembrance." Florina hereupon said a thousand obliging things to him; which he answered by a thousand others.

When day appeared, the blue bird returned to his hollow tree, where he lived upon the fruits and berries of the neighbouring groves. There sometimes he warbled his melodious notes so charming to the ears of all that passed that way, that they stood still to hearken, more astonished when they looked about and could not see from whence the melody could come: which made them conclude that the groves were frequented by spirits. This opinion became so generally believed, that nobody durst fre-

quent the wood; and a thousand fabulous stories were spread abroad of strange things seen there; so that the general terror caused the particular safety of the blue bird.

Not a day passed but he made some present to Florina; sometimes a necklace of pearl, sometimes jewels, the most brilliant and curiously set: diamond-clasps, bodkins, posies of diamonds in imitation of all the colours of flowers; delightful books, medals; in a word, she abounded in treasures; but she never adorned herself with them but in the night, to please the charming king: in the day-time, having no other place to put them, she hid them carefully under her straw.

Two years thus slipt away, during which Florina never complained of her captivity. And indeed what reason had she to complain? She had the satisfaction every night to converse with him she loved, nor was there ever more agreeable discourse between two lovers.

In the mean while the malicious queen, who so barbarously detained her in prison, used many fruitless endeavours to marry Truitonne; she sent ambassadors to propose her to all the princes whose names she did but know; but when they arrived and proposed Truitonne, they were immediately dismissed. "But," said they, "if you had come to offer the princess Florina, you would have been joyfully received. As for Truitonne, she may live a vestal, for nobody will disturb her." These answers transported the mother and daughter with implacable fury against the innocent princess whom they persecuted. "How," said they, notwithstanding her close imprisonment, "shall this arrogant still conspire against us? She must certainly hold correspondence in foreign countries: she is at least a state criminal, and must be treated as such, therefore let us find means to convict her."

They broke up their council so late that it was after midnight, when they resolved to go to the tower to examine her. She was then at the window with

the blue bird, adorned with all her jewels, and her lovely hair dressed with that care and exactness which is not usual with persons in affliction: her chamber and her bed were strewed with flowers, and certain Spanish perfumes, which she had just burnt, spread a fragrant odour round the room. The queen listening at the door, heard a duet sung, for Florina had a heavenly voice: she cried out, "we are betrayed, my dear Truitonne, we are betrayed;" and opening the door in a hasty fury, how was Florina amazed at the sight of her! She immediately opened the little casement to let her royal bird escape, being more concerned for his preservation than her own; but he had not power to fly away; his piercing eyes perceived the danger to which the princess was exposed: he saw the queen and Truitonne; and how great was his affliction not to be in a condition to defend her! They accosted her like furies that were ready to devour her. "We know your intrigues and combinations against the state," cried the queen, "think you, that your rank shall save you from deserved punishment?" "With whom do I conspire, I beseech you, madam?" replied the princess: "Have not you been my guardian these two years? Have I seen any other persons than those you sent me?" Whilst she was speaking, the queen and her daughter surveyed her with astonishment; for her admirable beauty, and extraordinary dress, quite dazzled their eyes. "And where, I pray you, madam, did you get these glittering jewels, which excel the sun in splendour? Will you make us believe too that there are mines in this tower?" "I found them here," replied the princess, "that is all I can tell you about them." The queen looked wistfully upon her, to penetrate, if possible, the bottom of her heart. "No, mistress, no, we are not your dupes: you hope to make us believe this; but, princess, we are acquainted with what you do from morning till night; all these jewels are given you with a design to make you sell your father's kingdom." "I am in a very

fit condition to deliver it," answered Florina with a disdainful smile: "a poor unfortunate princess, that has lain for these two years languishing in captivity, is able to do much in a conspiracy of this nature." "For whose sake then," replied the queen, "is your chamber so scented with rich perfumes, and your person so magnificently drest, that, in the midst of the court you would not have appeared so splendid?" "Oh!" said the princess, "you allow me leisure enough; 'tis no wonder then that I should amuse myself sometimes in dressing, for I spend so many hours in bewailing my misfortunes, that these few moments may not be envied me." "Come, come," said the queen, "let us see whether this pretty innocent has not some treaty on foot with the enemy."

She sought all about, and coming to the straw, caused it to be removed, and found under it such an amazing quantity of diamonds, pearls, rubies, emeralds, and topazes, that she could not conceive how it was possible they could come there. She resolved to drop papers in a certain part of the room, the contents of which might serve for an accusation against the princess, and when she thought herself unobserved, she accordingly hid some in the chimney; but luckily the blue bird was perched on the top of it, whose eyes were more piercing than those of a lynx, and who heard all that passed. He immediately cried out, "Florina, beware, your enemy is laying snares for your ruin." This unexpected voice so amazed the queen, that she dared not proceed in her purpose.

"You see, madam," said the princess, "that even the spirits that fly in the air are favourable to me." "I believe," cried the queen in a violent rage, "that the devils themselves assist you; but in despite of all your magical artifices, your father knows how to do himself justice." "I wish to heaven," cried Florina, "I had nothing else to fear but my father's anger."

The queen left her, not a little troubled at what she had seen and heard. She held a council to con-

sult what was to be done with the princess. They told her, that if any fairy or enchanter took her into their protection, the true way to provoke them, would be to load her with new afflictions; and that it would be best to attempt a discovery of her intrigue. The queen approved this advice, and sent a young maid to lie in her chamber, with proper instructions, and to say, that she was sent to serve her. But the scheme was too gross to succeed; the princess looked upon the maid as a spy; and thought a greater misfortune could not have befallen her: "What," said she, "must I no longer converse with my charming blue bird, that is so dear to me? His company made my misfortunes easy, and soothed his afflictions. What will become of him? What will, indeed, become of me?" These considerations drew from her a flood of tears.

She durst not now appear at the little window, though she heard the blue bird flutter about it: she had a longing desire to open it: but she was afraid of endangering his life. Thus she spent a whole month; which made the blue bird almost desperate. What complaints did he not make? He was quite in despair and almost grieved himself to death.

At length the princess's spy, who had watched day and night for a whole month together, was so overcome with drowsiness, that at last she fell into a profound sleep: which Florina perceiving, opened the window, and sung,

Gentle Blue Bird, fly to me,
And bless me with thy company.

The blue bird understood her meaning so well, that he came directly to the window. What joy was there, to see each other again! what tenderness, and what protestations of fidelity were renewed a thousand times over! the princess not being able to refrain from tears, the bird sympathized with her, and endeavoured to comfort her the best he could. At length the hour of separation being come, before the jailor waked, they bid each other adieu in the most moving manner.

The next night the spy slept as before, and the princess, not negligent, opened the window, and sung the same little verse as before.

The bird appeared, and the night was spent without hurry or noise, to the great satisfaction of both; and they flattered themselves that their centinel would take so much pleasure in sleeping, that she would do the same every night: the third night passed without the least disturbance; but the following night the sleeper having heard a noise, listened without appearing to be awake. At length she looked about her as well as she could, and by the light of the moon she saw the most beautiful bird in the world, which talked to the Princess, and caressed her with his ivory bill and little feet. In a word, she heard a great part of their conversation, whereat she was greatly astonished.

The day appeared, and they took their leaves with an ominous foreboding of their approaching misfortune; they bid adieu with more than ordinary affliction. The princess threw herself upon the bed, all bathed in tears, and the royal bird returned to his hollow tree. Her jailor ran to the queen, and gave her an exact account of all that she had seen and heard. The queen sent for Truitonne and her confidants, and having consulted with them a long time, they concluded that the blue bird must be the charming king. "What an affront is this!" cried the queen; "What an affront, my dear Truitonne! This insolent princess, whom I thought in such affliction, enjoys in full repose the pleasing conversation of our ungrateful prince: but I will be revenged in so bloody a manner, as shall make it the discourse of the world." Truitonne besought her not to lose a minute: and as she thought herself more concerned in the affair than the queen, she was ready so die for joy, at the thoughts of the sufferings preparing for the lover and his mistress.

The queen sent back her spy to the tower, with strict command not to shew the least suspicion or curiosity; but to seem more sleepy than before: she went early to bed, snored aloud, and the poor deceived princess, opening the window, sung as usual.

But she called him all night in vain, for no blue bird appeared. The wicked queen had caused the cypress tree to be stuck with swords, knives, and daggers, so that when he came flying into it, these murderous weapons cut his feet, and falling from thence upon others, they cut his wings, so that at last, being wounded all over, he made shift to get to his hollow tree, to which you might trace him by his blood.

"Why were you not there, fair Florina, to succour the royal bird?" but, alas! you would have died had you been witness of his deplorable condition. Yet, believing she was accessary to his disaster, he refused to take any care of his life. "Ah! barbarous princess," cried he with a desponding voice, "is it thus thou repayest the most sincere and tender passion that ever harboured in a lover's breast? If thou didst desire my death, why didst thou not demand it of me thyself? I would have rejoiced to receive it from thy hand! I came to thee with so much love and confidence! suffered too for thy sake, and suffered without complaining! and for this thou hast sacrificed me to the most cruel of women! she was our common enemy, but thou hast made thy peace with her at the expence of my blood. 'Tis thou, Florina, 'tis thou that hast stabbed me; thou hast borrowed Truitonne's hand, and directed it to my heart." These dismal ideas so overpowered him that he resolved to die.

But the enchanter, his friend, who had seen the winged frogs return home again with the chariot, but without the king, was so troubled to know what was become of him, that he went eight times round the world in search of him, but in vain. He was making the ninth tour, when he passed through the wood where he was, and, according to the rules which he had prescribed to himself, he sounded his horn, and cried out five times with a loud voice, "Charming king, where are you?" The king knew the voice of his best friend, and immediately cried, "Come hither to this tree, and behold the unfortunate prince whom you seek, wel ng in his blood." The enchanter looked abou

him on every side in great surprise, but could see nothing. "I am become a blue bird," said the king, with a feeble and languishing voice. At these words, the enchanter found him without much trouble, in his little nest. Any other person would have been more astonished than he was; but being versed in all the arts of necromancy, it cost him only a few words to stop the king's bleeding; and by the help of certain herbs, which he found in the wood, over which he pronounced two or three powerful charms, he cured the king as effectually as if he had never been wounded.

After this, the enchanter desired the king to let him know by what accident he became a bird, and who had wounded him so cruelly. The king satisfied his curiosity, and told him farther, that it was Florina who had revealed the mystery of the secret visits which he had paid her; and that to make her peace with the queen, she had suffered the cypress tree to be stuck with knives, daggers, and swords, by which he had been almost cut to pieces; exclaiming at the same time against the princess's infidelity, and wishing he had been so happy as to have died before he discovered her treacherous heart. The enchanter was enraged against her and the whole sex, and advised the king to forget her. "How terrible would your misfortunes be," said the enchanter, "should you continue to love this ungrateful woman! after what she has done to you, what is there you have not to fear from her?" But the blue bird could not comply with his advice; he still loved Florina too dearly.

The royal bird desired his friend to carry him home to his house, and put him in a cage, where he might be secure from the claws of a cat, and all other enemies. "But," said the enchanter, "will you linger out five years longer in this deplorable condition, so prejudicial to your affairs, and so unsuitable to your dignity? For, in short, your enemies gave out that you are dead, and are preparing to seize upon your throne, and I am afraid you will lose your kingdom before you can recover your form." "Is it not possible,"

said he, "for me to return to my palace, and govern my kingdom, as I was wont to do?"

"Oh!" cried the enchanter, "the case is quite different: They who will obey a man, will not obey a parrot; and they who feared you when you were a king, surrounded with pomp and grandeur, will pluck your feathers from your back, when they see you are only a little bird." "Alas, how great is human weakness," cried the king, "that a gaudy outside, though it is nothing in comparison with merit and virtue, should yet become so necessary as not to be dispensed with! Well then," continued he, "let's be philosophers, and despise what is not in our power to obtain; our condition will not be the worst of all others." "Hold," said the necromancer, "I am not so soon discouraged: I have hopes of being able to discover some expedients."

In the mean time Florina, the disconsolate Florina, grown desperate at no longer seeing the king, watched day and night at the window, incessantly singing and repeating the usual words.

The presence of her spy no longer laid her under a restraint; for her despair was such that she cared not what she did. "What is become of you, charming king," cried she; "have our common enemies made you feel the cruel effects of their rage? Are you fallen a sacrifice to their inexorable fury? Oh heavens! art thou then dead, and must I never see thee more? Or, tired with my misfortunes, hast thou abandoned me to the severity of my fate?" Tears and the most bitter lamentations accompanied these sorrowful complainings. She became quite dejected, sick, lean, and altered in her countenance, so that she could scarcely support herself; being persuaded some fatal accident had befallen the king.

The queen and Truitonne triumphed? revenge gave them greater pleasure than the offence had given them pain; and this, because the king had refused to marry a monster, which he had a thousand reasons to hate. But now the father of Florina, who was grown old.

fell sick and died, and his death brought a change in the fortune of the queen and Truitonne; who were looked upon as favourites who had abused their power; and the people with violence ran to the palace, demanding Florina, and acknowledging her for their sovereign. The queen dowager at first thought to carry things with a high hand, and appearing in a balcony, began to threaten the people; but the insurrection becoming general, they broke open the doors of her apartment, plundered it, and stoned her to death: Truitonne, who narrowly escaped their fury, fled to her godmother, the fairy Soussio.

The grandees of the kingdom assembled immediately, and went to the tower where the princess lay sick. She was ignorant of her father's death, and the punishment of her mortal enemy; so that when she heard so much noise, she was in hopes they were come to put her to death; for life was become hateful to her, since the loss of her blue bird. But her subjects throwing themselves at her feet, soon gave her to understand the change of her fortune; but it made no alteration in her countenance or behaviour. However, they carried her to her palace, and there crowned her.

The infinite care that was taken of her health, and her own eager desire to go in search of her blue bird, extremely contributed to her recovery; and soon gave her strength to appoint a council that might take care of her kingdom in her absence. Which done, she took a vast treasure of jewels, and one night privately departed by herself, no one knowing whither she went.

In the mean time the enchanter who managed the charming king's affairs, not having sufficient power to destroy what Soussio had done, resolved to go to her, and propose an accommodation, whereby she should restore the king to his natural shape. He took his winged frogs, and flew to the fairy's castle, who was at that instant talking with Truitonne. Now you must know, that between a necromancer and a fairy

there is very little difference. They had been acquainted five or six hundred years; and in that time had been friends and enemies a thousand times. She received him very courteously, and asked him his business. "Is there any thing that I can serve you in?" said she. "Yes," said the necromancer, "it is in your power to grant me all I desire; and it is for one of my best friends; a king that you have rendered miserable." "Oh, oh, I understand you," cried Soussio, "I am sorry for it, but there is no favour to be expected in his behalf, unless he marry my god-daughter: here she is, fair and handsome as you see; let your friend consider what he should do."

The necromancer had a mind to say no more, he thought her so ugly: however, he resolved not to leave her till he had done something, because the king had run a thousand risks since his confinement in the cage. For the nail broke, the cage fell down, and his feathered majesty suffered greatly by the fall; the cat also being in the chamber, gave him a scratch with her paw, that had like to have blinded one of his eyes. Another time they forgot to give him water, so that he was within a drop of being choked. Another time a little unlucky monkey having broke his chain, catched him by the feathers, through the bars of the cage, and shewed him no more mercy than he would a jay or a magpie. But the worst of all was, that his next heirs were just going to seize upon his kingdom, giving out every day new stories of his death to confirm their title. At last the enchanter agreed with Soussio, that she should bring Truitonne to the charming king's palace; that she should remain there for some months, in which time the king might be persuaded to marry her; and she should restore him to his former shape, upon condition that he should be a blue bird again, if he refused the match.

The fairy dressed Truitonne most pompously in gold and silver, and taking her behind her upon a dragon's back, they proceeded for the charming king's dominions, who was arrived there with his friend the

enchanter. Soussio, with three strokes of her wand, made the king resume his former shape, and appear as amiable as ever. But he paid dear for the change; for the very thought of marrying Truitonne made him tremble. The enchanter used the best arguments he could to persuade him; but they made no impression upon him; and he was less employed in the management of public affairs, than in seeking which way to prolong the time which Soussio had allowed him to marry Truitonne.

In the mean time queen Florina, disguised like country girl, in a straw hat, with a bag of linen on her shoulder, began her journey, sometimes on foot, sometimes on horseback, sometimes by sea, sometimes by land, making all the haste she possibly could: But not knowing her way, she was in continual fear, lest she should go one way while her charming king was going the other. Having one day stopped by the side of a fountain, that washed an infinite number of smooth pebbles as it murmured along, she had a desire to wash her feet. She sat down upon the green turf, and put her feet into the water, like Diana bathing after a toilsome chace. At that instant there appeared a little old woman, stooping with age, and leaning upon a great crutch, who making a stop, "What are you doing there, my pretty maid," said she, "thus alone?" "My good mother," replied the queen, "I have nevertheless too much company, for I am followed by chagrin, sorrow, and misfortune."—Saying these words, a flood of tears burst from her eyes. "How! so young and weep!" said the good woman: "Come, come, my child, do not afflict yourself; tell me the cause of your sorrow sincerely, and perhaps I may relieve you." The queen gave the old woman a full account of every thing, how the fairy Soussio had dealt with the charming king, and finally, how she herself was going in quest of the blue bird.

The old woman having stroked her arms and her face, all on a sudden appeared handsome, young, and richly habited, and looking upon the queen with a

gracious smile, "Incomparable Florina," said she, "the king whom you seek is now no more a bird; my sister Soussio has restored him to his primitive shape; he is in his kingdom; do not afflict yourself, you shall arrive there too, and shall succeed in your design: take these four eggs, break them in your pressing necessities, and you will find in them all you want in your distresses." Saying these words she vanished.

This unexpected accident afforded not a little consolation to the fair Florina; she put her eggs in her bag, and travelled towards the charming prince's kingdom.

After she had travelled eight days and nights without stopping, she arrived at the foot of a prodigious high mountain, all of ivory, and so steep, that she could not set her feet upon it. She made a thousand attempts, but in vain, for her feet always slipped; so that at length quite tired, and despairing to overcome so insurmountable an obstacle, she sat down with the resolution to die upon the spot; but recollecting the eggs which the fairy had given her, she took out one, and holding it in her hand, "Now," said she, "let us see whether this fairy was in jest or earnest, when she promised me the assistance I should want." She had no sooner broke it, but there came out several small golden cramps, which she fastened to her hands and feet, and by the help of them ascended the ivory mountain without any trouble. But when she arrived at the top, she had a new difficulty to descend into the valley, which was one entire looking-glass, two leagues broad, and six in length, and there were above sixty thousand women admiring themselves in it with extreme pleasure; for in this glass every one beheld herself as she wished to be. Red hair appeared white, and brown hair seemed black; the old looked young, the young continued so; in a word, all defects were so well concealed in this mirror, that women came from all parts of the world to view themselves in it. And you might have died with laughter, to behold the grimaces and ridiculous distortions of the greatest

part of these coquettes. Nor were the men less numerous, or less pleased, who looked in this glass; for it made some appear with fine heads of hair, and others taller and better shaped, with a martial and majestic mien: the women, whom they laughed at, were not less merry with them. This mountain was called by a thousand different names. No one had ever got to the top of it; so that when they saw Florina there, the women screamed out, saying, no doubt she is able to walk upon our looking-glass, and will break it to pieces as soon as she sets her feet upon it: saying this, they made a noise ten times louder and more frightful than before.

The queen knew not what to do, finding the descent exceedingly dangerous; and therefore she broke another egg, out of which there came two pigeons and a chariot, growing immediately big enough to contain her. She placed herself in it, and the pigeons descended gently with her to the bottom of the valley. When she was down, "My pretty little friends," said she, "if you will carry me where the charming king keeps his court, you will oblige one who will not be ungrateful." The obliging and obedient pigeons never stopt, night nor day, till they arrived at the gates of the city, where Florina alighted, and gave to each a sweet and tender kiss, more inestimable than a crown.

How did her heart beat when she entered the city; she daubed her face that she might not be known, and enquired of several that she met where she might see the king: this set many people a laughing. "See the king!" said they, "why what wouldst thou have with the king! go, wash thy face, thy eyes are not clear enough to see such a monarch." The queen made no reply, but went forwards and asked others whom she met, where she might place herself to see the king? "You may see him to-morrow," said they, "for he will then go to the temple with the princess Truitonne, whom he has at length consented to marry."

"Heavens!" cried Florina, "what do I hear! Truitonne, the detested Truitonne on the point of marriage with the king!" She was ready to sink into the earth, and not strength to speak or walk any more; but at length got under a porch, and seating herself upon the stones, covered with her hair and her straw hat, "Unfortunate that I am," said she, "am I come here to augment the triumph of my rival, and be a witness of her satisfaction? It was for her sake, then, that the blue bird ceased seeing me! It was for that little monster, that he committed the most cruel of all infidelities; while I, overwhelmed with grief, and restless day and night, disquieted myself with a thousand cares for the preservation of his life! But the traitor had changed his affections, and, minding me no more than if he had never seen me, left me to consume with grief and anguish for his long absence, without in the least regretting mine."

When we are greatly afflicted, we seldom have any appetite; the queen therefore sought a lodging, and went to her repose without any supper. She arose at break of day and went to the temple, where she was thrust back a thousand times by the guards and soldiers, before she could get in; but at last, being entered, she beheld two thrones, one for the king, the other for Truitonne, who was already looked upon as queen. What a killing sight was this for a person so tender and delicate as Florina! She drew near her rival's throne, and stood leaning against a pillar.

The king appeared first, handsomer and more amiable than ever; Truitonne followed him, magnificently arrayed, but so ugly that she was even frightful; and casting a squinting look upon the queen, "Who art thou," said she, knitting her brows, "that thus presumest to come so near my incomparable person, and my throne of gold?" "I am called Souillon," replied the queen, "and am come a great way off to sell you certain rarities." Saying this, she took out of her bag the emerald and the bracelets which the charming king had given her.

"Ho, ho," said Truitonne, "these are very pretty things; must I give thee sixpence for them?" "Shew them to those who understand them," said the queen, "and then we will agree about the price." Truitonne, who had as much tenderness for the king as such a fool was capable of, being overjoyed, she had such an opportunity to speak to him, went to his throne and shewed him the bracelets, desiring his opinion what they were worth. The king no sooner saw the jewels, but he called to mind the bracelets he had presented to Florina; turned pale, sighed, and was a long time before he could answer: But at last, fearing lest his disorder should be perceived, hemade an effort, and replied. "These bracelets, I believe, are worth as much as my kingdom: I thought there had been but one pair in the world; but these are the same with mine."

Truitonne returned to her throne, where she sat with far less grace than an oyster in the shell. She asked the queen how much she would have at a word for her bracelets? "You will not find it easy, madam, to pay me what they are worth," said Florina; but if you will procure me one night's lodging in the cabinet of echoes, which is in the king's palace, I will give you my emeralds." "Very willingly, Souillon," replied Truitonne, laughing and shewing her teeth, which were longer than the tusks of a boar.

The king never informed himself from whence the bracelets came, not so much out of any indifference for her who presented them, (though her appearance did not excite curiosity) as from an invincible abhorrence of Truitonne. Now it is necessary to know, that while he was a blue bird, he had told the princess, that under his apartment there was a cabinet called the cabinet of echoes; which was so ingeniously contrived, that whatever was but whispered there, the king could hear it as he lay in his chamber. And as Florina was resolved to upbraid him with his infidelity, she could not imagine a better means.

She was carried into this cabinet by Truitonne's

order, where she began her complaints and lamentations. "The misfortune which I apprehended is but too certain, cruel blue bird," said she; "thou hast forgotten me, and lovest my detested rival. The bracelets which I received from thy disloyal hand could not recall me to thy remembrance, so far am I from thy thoughts." Sighs then interrupted her speech; but when she had power to speak, she renewed her sorrows till break of day. But the valets de chambre having heard her sighs and lamentations, acquainted Truitonne with it, who sending for her, asked her the meaning of it? The queen replied, that she slept soundly, but frequently dreamed and talked aloud in her sleep. But the king by a strange fatality had not heard her: for ever since he had been in love with Florina, he could never sleep; so that when he went to his repose he was obliged to take opium.

The queen passed part of that day in great disquiet: "If he heard me," said she, "can there be a more cruel indifference? If he did not hear me, what shall I do to make him? She had no more rarities that were extraordinary; for all diamonds are brilliant, and she wanted something which might flatter the vanity of Truitonne. Her recourse was therefore to her eggs, of which she had no sooner broken the third, than there came forth a little coach of polished steel, curiously embellished, and inlaid with gold. It was drawn by six green mice, driven by a rat in a rose-coloured livery, and the postillion, who was also of the rat-family, wore a livery of rose-colour and white. There were in the coach four puppets, merrier, more witty and diverting than any you see at Bartholomew Fair: they played a thousand surprising tricks, especially two little gypsies, who in a hornpipe, or a minuet, would have contended with any of our most celebrated performers.

The queen was ravished with this new master-piece of necromantic art, but she said not a word till the evening, which was the time that Truitonne walked abroad to take the air; and she then placed herself in one

of the walks, and set her little mice a galloping with the coach, the rats, and the puppets. This novelty so astonished Truitonne, that she screamed out two or three times, seeing the queen, "Souillon, Souillon, will you take five-pence for your coach and all that belongs to it?" "Ask the men of learning, and the doctors of the kingdom, what such a wonder as this may be worth," said Florina, "and I will agree to their valuation." Truitonne, who was impatient in every thing, replied, "Well, not to be troubled any longer with thy nasty company, tell me thy lowest price." "Well, then," said the queen, "let me pass one night more in the cabinet of echoes, that is all I demand." "Prithee go, poor fool," cried Truitonne, "thou art very much in love, I find, with the cabinet of echoes." Then turning about to her women, "Is not this a great fool," cried she, "to part with these great curiosities for nothing?"

Night being come, Florina said every thing she could imagine most tender and moving, but with no better success than before, because the king always took his opium. The pages concluded among themselves, that certainly the girl was crazed; for what, said they, can she talk about all night as she does? And yet, said they, there is wit and passion in what she utters. The queen impatiently waited for day, that she might see what effect her complaints had produced: "What!" said she, "is this barbarian become deaf to my cries? Will he not hear his dear Florina! Oh! what a weakness is it in me still to love him! And how well do I deserve these marks of his contempt!" But these reflections were in vain, for it was not in her power to forget her love for the charming king.

She had now only one egg left, in which all her hopes consisted. She broke it, and out came a pasty, containing six birds well barbed and baked, and they sung wonderfully fine, told fortunes, and were as well skilled in physic as Esculapius. The queen was charmed with

such an admirable acquisition, and went with her taking pasty into Truitonne's anti-chamber.

While she was waiting to see Truitonne pass by, one of the king's pages accosted her, saying, "Mrs. Souillon, did not my master take opium every night to make him sleep, you would certainly disturb him, you make such a noise every night in the cabinet of echoes." By this Florina understood the reason why she was not heard; and putting her hand in her bag. "I am so little afraid of disturbing the king's repose," said she, "that if you will not let him have opium to night, all these pearls and diamonds shall be your's." The page could not resist so great a temptation; and promised her what she desired.

Presently after Truitonne appeared, and spied the queen with her pasty, who feigned as if she was going to eat it. "How now, Souillon," said she, "what are you doing there?" "Madam," replied Florina, "I am eating astrologers, musicians, and physicians." Immediately all the birds fell a singing more harmoniously than syrens: and after that they cried, "give us a white piece, and we will tell you your fortune." Presently a drake, who seemed to be the superior among them, cried out, "Quack, quack, quack; I am a physician, and cure all diseases, and all follies, except that of love." Truitonne, more surprised than ever she was in her life at these wonders, declared it was an excellent pasty, and she would have it.—"Here, here, Souillon, what must I give thee?"—"The usual price," replied the queen, "another night's lodging in the cabinet of echoes." "Here," cried Truitonne, generously, (for the acquisition of the pasty had put her in a good humour) "thou shalt have this guinea to boot." Florina, better pleased than she had yet been, because she was in hopes the king would hear her, retired, giving her many thanks.

As soon as night came, she repaired to her cabinet, between hope and fear of the page's keeping his word, by giving the king, instead of his opium, something else which might keep him awake. When she thougnt

that sleep had locked up every body's ears and eyes, she renewed her usual complaints. "To what perils and dangers," said she, "have I exposed myself, to find thee out, while thou cruelly fliest me, and art going to marry Truitonne! what have I done, hard-hearted prince, that thou shouldst thus forget thy oaths? recall to mind thy metamorphosis, my kindness, and our tender conversations." And she repeated them almost all over, with a memory which proved, that nothing was more dear to her than the remembrance of them.

The king slept not a wink, and so distinctly heard Florina's voice and all her words, that he could not conceive from whence they came. But his heart being touched with tenderness, so sensibly recalled to his mind the idea of his incomparable princess, and the cruel disaster which had parted them, that he began to complain in his turn: "Aye, princess," said he, "too cruel to a lover that adored you! was it possible that you could sacrifice me to our common enemies?" Florina heard what he said, and failed not to answer him, giving him to understand, that if he would condescend to converse with Souillon, she might perhaps satisfy him in regard to many things of which he was yet ignorant. Upon these words the king with impatience called one of his gentlemen, and asked him if he could find Souillon, and bring her to him. The page replied, that nothing was so easy, because she lay that night in the cabinet of echoes.

The king could not tell what to think; how could he imagine that so great a queen as Florina should be disguised in the habit of Souillon? and on the contrary, how could he conceive that Souillon should have the queen's voice, or know her secrets, unless it were she herself? In this uncertainty he arose, dressed himself in haste, and descended through a private passage into the cabinet of echoes, the key of which the queen had taken away; but the king had a key which opened all the doors of the palace.

He found her in a thin white taffeta robe, which she

wore under her disguises: her hair flowed in loose ringlets over her shoulders, and she was lying upon a couch, with a lamp at some distance that cast only a faint light. The king hastily entered, and his love transporting him above his resentment, as soon as he saw her, he fell at her feet, bathed her hands with his tears, and was ready to die of joy, grief, and a thousand different passions by which he was at that instant agitated.

Nor was the queen in less disorder; her heart beat so that she could hardly breathe; she cast a wistful look upon the king, without being able to speak a word; and when she had power to speak, she had not power to upbraid him. The pleasure of seeing him again made her forget the causes of complaint, which, as she thought, she justly had against him. At last their misunderstandings were cleared up, they were reconciled, their tenderness was renewed, and all that now disturbed them, was the fairy Soussio.

At this instant the enchanter, who was the king's friend, arrived with a famous fairy, the very same who had given Florina the four eggs. After the first compliments, the enchanter and the fairy declared, that their power being united in favour of the king and his queen, Soussio could not hurt them, and therefore their marriage need not be delayed.

The joy of these two young lovers may be easily conceived; so soon as it was day the whole palace rung with it, and the whole court was overjoyed to see Florina. The news soon reached Truitonne's ears, and she flew to the king: but how was she surprised when she saw her beautiful rival! and she was just going to open her foul mouth to load her with reproachful language, when the enchanter and the fairy appeared, and immediately transformed her into a sow, that so she might retain at least some part of her shape and nature: in which condition she trotted away grunting and nuzzling with her snout into the outer court, where she was the laughter and derision of the lacqueys and foot-boys.

The charming king, and queen Florina, thus delivered from so odious a person, were now wholly intent upon the accomplishment of their nuptials, which were solemnized with equal gallantry and magnificence. And it is easy to judge of their felicity by the tediousness and severity of their sufferings and misfortunes.

THE INVISIBLE PRINCE.

THERE was a king and a queen, who had only one son, for whom they had a most passionate affection, though he was very ill-favoured; for he was as thick and gross as the most corpulent man, and as low as the smallest dwarf. But the ugliness of his countenance, and the deformity of his body, were nothing to the wickedness of his mind, for he was obstinate and self-willed, and sought to disturb the peace of every body. The king was sensible, from his most early youth, of the vileness of his disposition; but the queen doated on him, and contributed to the spoiling of him by her excessive fondness, which made him sensible of the power he had over her; and the only way to win her favour, was to praise her son for his wit and beauty. She determined to give him a name which should procure him both fear and respect: and after long consideration, she called him Furibon.

When he came to be of age to have a governor, the king made choice of a prince who had an ancient title to the crown, which he would have maintained like a man of courage, had his affairs been in a better condition. But he had long laid aside all thoughts of this, and wholly applied himself to give his only son a noble and virtuous education.

Never had any youth a sweeter disposition, a more lively and penetrating wit, or a more docile, and submissive temper. Whatever he spoke, was with an

agreeable manner, and a peculiar grace; and his person was without the smallest blemish.

The king having made choice of this great lord to educate Furibon, he commanded him to be very obedient; but he was such an incorrigible dunce, that all the whipping in the world was to no purpose. His governor's son was called Leander, and was beloved by all that knew him.

He was almost always in Furibon's company, but that only rendered the deformed prince more hideous. "You are very happy," said he, looking upon him with a malicious eye, "every body are lavish in their praises of you; but not one of them has a good word for me." "Sir," replied Leander modestly, "the respect they have for you, restrains them from being familiar." "They do very well," said Furibon, "for otherwise I should knock their heads and the wall together, to teach them their duty."

One day, when a certain ambassador arrived from a remote country, Furibon, accompanied by Leander, stood in a gallery to see them pass by; but when the ambassadors beheld Leander, they approached him with profound reverence, testifying by signs their admiration. Afterwards observing Furibon, they took him to be his dwarf; and taking him by the arm, they turned him about as it were to view him round, notwithstanding all he could do to prevent them.

Leander was vexed extremely; in vain he told them it was the king's son, for they understood him not; and the interpreter was gone to wait their appearance before the king. Leander finding he could not make them understand him, redoubled his respects to Furibon. But the ambassadors, as well as those of their train, believing he was in jest, began to laugh at Furibon's angry impatience, and endeavoured to fillip him upon the nose, as they used to serve monkies in their own country. Furibon at last drew his sword, which was not much longer than a lady's bodkin; and might have done some mischief, had not the king appeared to meet the ambassadors. He was

greatly surprised to behold his son's behaviour, and begged their excuse, if any incivility had been offered them. They replied, the matter was of no consequence; for they perceived the little ugly dwarf was of a bad disposition. The king was greatly chagrined to find that his son's ill-favoured mein, and his extravagancies, had made his rank be so widely mistaken.

When they were gone, Furibon took Leander by the hair, and plucked off two or three handfuls; nay, he would have throttled him if he could; and forbid him ever to appear again in his presence. Leander's father, offended with Furibon's behaviour toward his son, sent him to a castle of his in the country, where he always found himself employment; for he was a great lover of hunting, fishing, and walking: he understood painting, read much, and played upon several instruments; so that he looked upon himself happy in being freed from the fantastic humours of the prince; nor was he tired in the least with the solitude of the place.

One day as he was walking in the garden, finding the heat increase, he retired into a grove, whose lofty and thick-tufted shade afforded him a cool retreat. And here he began to play upon his flute for his diversion, when he felt something that wound itself several times about his leg, and grasped it very hard; he looked to see what it was, and was surprised to find it was a great adder: he took his handkerchief, and catching it by the head, was going to kill it. But the adder winding the rest of his body about his arm, and looking stedfastly in his face, seemed to beg his pardon and compassion. At this instant one of the gardeners happened to come to the place where Leander was, and spying the snake, cried out to his master, "hold him fast, sir; it is but an hour ago since we ran after him to kill him; it is the most mischievous creature in the world; he spoils all our walks." Leander casting his eyes a second time upon the snake, which was speckled with a thousand extraordinary colours, perceived the poor creature still

looked upon him with an aspect that seemed to beg compassion, and never stirred in the least to defend itself. "Though thou hast such a mind to kill it," said he to the gardener, "yet as it is come to me for refuge, I forbid thee to do it any harm, for I will keep it; and when it has cast its beautiful skin I will let it go." He then returned home, and carrying the snake with him, put it in a large chamber, the key of which he kept himself, and ordered bran, milk, and flowers, to be given to it for its delight and sustenance; so that never was snake so happy. Leander went sometimes to see it, and when it perceived him it made haste to meet him, shewing him all the little marks of love and gratitude of which a poor snake was capable, which did not a little surprise him, though, however, he took no farther notice of it.

In the mean time, all the court-ladies were extremely troubled at his absence; and he was the subject of all their discourse. "Alas!" cried they, "there is no pleasure at court, since Leander is gone, of whose absence the wicked Furibon is the cause! Ought he to injure him, because he is more amiable and better beloved than him? Would he have him disfigure his shape and countenance to please him? Would he have him dislocate his bones, slit his mouth up to his ears, lessen his eyes, and shorten his nose? How ridiculous and unjust is such a desire! But he will never be pleased as long as he lives, for he will never find one who is not handsomer than himself."

But let a prince be never so ill-natured, never so wicked, he will have his flatterers, and many times the worst of princes have more than others. Thus Furibon also had his parasites, for his power over the queen made him feared; so that they told him what the ladies said, which enraged him to a degree of fury; and in his passion he flew to the queen's chamber and vowed he would kill himself before her face, if she did not find means to destroy Leander. The queen, who also hated Leander, because he was handsomer

than the monkey her son, replied, that she had long looked upon him as a traitor, and therefore would willingly consent to his death. To which purpose she advised him to go a hunting with some of his confidants, and contrive it so that Leander should make one, and that then he might teach him to remember how he gained the love of every body.

Accordingly Furibon went a hunting; and Leander, when he heard the horns and the hounds, mounted his horse and rode to see who it was. But he was surprized to meet the prince so unexpectedly: immediately he alighted, and saluted him with profound respect; and Furibon received him more graciously than he expected, and bid him follow him. All of a sudden he turned his horse, and rode another way, making a sign to his ruffians to take the first opportunity: but before he had got quite out of sight, a lion of a prodigious size coming out of his den leaped upon Furibon, and pulled him from his horse. All his followers betook themselves to flight, and only Leander remained to combat this furious animal. He attacked him sword in hand at the hazard of being devoured, and by his valour and agility saved the life of his most cruel enemy, who was fallen in a swoon for fear, so that Leander was forced to lend him assistance of another kind: and when he came to himself, he presented him his horse to re-mount. Now any other but such an ungrateful wretch, would have highly and cordially acknowledged such signal obligations, and made suitable returns: but Furibon did no such thing; for he did not even look upon him; nor did he make use of his horse to any other purpose, than to ride in quest of the ruffians, to whom he repeated his orders to kill him. They accordingly surrounded Leander, and, but for his courage he had been certainly murdered. He got with his back to a tree, to prevent being attacked behind, and behaved with so much bravery, that he laid them all dead at his feet. Furibon, believing him by this time slain, made haste to satiate his eyes with the sight; but he came to a spectacle that

he least expected, for all his ruffians were breathing their last. When Leander saw him, he advanced to meet him, and with a submissive reverence, "Sir," said he, "if it was by your order that these assassins came to kill me, I am sorry I made any defence" "You are an insolent villain," replied Furibon in a passion; "and if ever you come into my presence again, you shall surely die."

Leander made him no reply, but retired sad and pensive to his own home: where he spent the night in pondering what it was best for him to do; for there was no likelihood he should be able to defend himself against the king's son; and therefore he at length concluded to see the world. Being ready to depart, he recollected his snake, and calling for some milk and fruits, carried it to the poor creature, designing to take his leave and dismiss it; but, on opening the door, he perceived an extraordinary lustre in one corner of the room; and casting his eye on the place, he was surprized to see a lady, whose noble and majestic air made him immediately conclude she was a princess of royal birth. Her habit was of purple satin, embroidered with pearls and diamonds; and advancing towards him, with a gracious smile, "Young prince," said she, "you are no longer to seek here for the snake which you brought hither; it is not here, but you find me in its place, to requite your generosity; but to speak more intelligibly, know that I am the fairy Gentilla, famous for the feats of mirth and dexterity which I can perform. We live a hundred years in flourishing youth, without diseases, without trouble or pain; and this term being expired, we become snakes for eight days: and this is the only time which may prove fatal to us; for then it is not in our power to prevent any misfortune that may befall us; and if we happen to be killed, we never revive again. But these eight days being expired, we resume our usual form, and recover our beauty, our power, and our riches. Now you know how much I am obliged to your goodness, and at is but just that I should repay my debt of

gratitude, think how I can serve you, and depend upon me."

The young prince, who had never conversed with a fairy till now, was so surprised that he was a long time before he could speak. But at length making her a profound reverence, "Madam," said he, "since I have had the honour to serve you, I know not any other happiness that I can wish for." "I should be sorry," replied she, "not to be of service to you in something; consider, it is in my power to make you a great king, prolong your life, make you more amiable, give you mines of diamonds, and houses full of gold; I can make you an excellent orator, poet, musician, and painter; I can make you beloved by the ladies, and increase your wit; I can make you a spirit of the air, the water, or the earth." Here Leander interrupt her, "Permit me, madam," said he, "to ask you what benefit it would be to me to be invisible or a spirit?" "A thousand useful and delightful things might be done by it," replied the fairy; "you would be invisible when you pleased, and might in an instant traverse the whole earth: you would be able to fly without wings, and descend into the abysses of the earth without dying, and walk at the bottom of the sea without being drowned; nor doors, nor windows, though fast shut and locked, could hinder you from entering any the most secret retirements; and whenever you had a mind you might resume your natural form." "Oh, madam!" cried Leander, "then let me be a spirit; I am going to travel, and prefer it above all those other advantages you have so generously offered me." Gentilla thereupon stroking his visage three times, "Be a spirit," said she; and then embracing him, she gave him a little red cap with a plume of feathers: "When you put on this cap, you shall be invisible; and when you take it off, you shall again become visible."

Leander, overjoyed, put his little red cap upon his head, and wished himself in the forest, that he might gather some wild roses which he had observed there

his body immediately became as light as thought; he flew through the window like a bird; but he was not without fear when he was soaring in the air and flying over any river, lest he should fall into it, and the power of the fairy not be able to save him. But he arrived in safety at the rose bushes, plucked three roses, and returned immediately to the chamber where the fairy still was, and presented his roses to her, overjoyed that his first experiment had succeeded so well. But the fairy bid him keep the roses, for that one of them would supply him with money whenever he wanted it; that if he put the other in his mistress's bosom, he would know whether she was faithful or not; and that the third would prevent his being sick. Then, without staying to receive his thanks, she wished him successful in his travels, and disappeared.

Leander was infinitely pleased with the noble gifts he had obtained. "Could I have imagined," said he, "that such great and unusual advantages as these would have been my reward for rescuing a poor snake out of my gardener's hand? How happy I shall be! what delightful hours I shall have! how many things I shall know! I may be invisible whenever I please, and may inform myself of the most secret affairs." He thought he might now be agreeably revenged upon Furibon. So having settled his affairs, he mounted the finest horse in the stable, called Gris-de-line, and was attended by some of his servants in livery, that his return to court might sooner be made known. Now you must know that Furibon, who was a very great liar, had given out, that had it not been for his courage, Leander would have murdered him when they were a hunting, and as he had killed all his followers he demanded justice. The king, being importuned by the queen, gave orders that he should be apprehended. But when he came, he shewed such courage and resolution, that Furibon was too timid to seize him himself; and therefore he ran to the queen's chamber, and told her Leander was come, and prayed her to order him to be seized. The queen,

who was extremely diligent in every thing that her son desired, went immediately to the king; and Furibon, being impatient to know what would be resolved, followed her without saying a word, but stopped at the door, and laid his ear to the key-hole, putting his hair aside, that he might the better hear what was said. At the same time Leander entered the court hall of the palace with his red cap upon his head, so that he was not to be seen; and perceiving Furibon listening at the door of the king's chamber, he took a nail and a hammer, and nailed his ear to the door.

Furibon in sharp pain, and all bloody, fell a roaring like a madman. The queen hearing her son's voice, ran and opened the door, and pulling it hastily, tore her son's ear from his head, so that he bled like a pig. The queen, half out of her wits, set him in her lap, and took up his ear, kissed it, and clapt it on again upon the place; but the invisible Leander, seizing upon a handful of twigs, with which they corrected the king's little dogs, gave the queen several lashes upon the hands, and her son as many over the nose; upon which the queen cried out, murder, murder!—and upon her crying out, the king looked about, and the people came running in; but nothing was to be seen. Some cried, that the queen was mad, and that her madness proceeded from her grief to see her son had lost one ear; and the king was as ready as any to believe it; so that when she came near him, he avoided her; which made a very ridiculous scene. Leander gave Furibon some more jerks; and then leaving the chamber, went into the garden, and there assuming his own shape, he boldly fell a plucking the queen's cherries, apricots, and strawberries, and cropt her flowers by handfuls, though he knew the queen set such a high value on them, that it was as much as a man's life was worth to touch one. The gardeners all amazed, came and told their majesties, that prince Leander was making havock of all the fruits and flowers in the queen's garden. "What insolence!"

cried the queen: Then turning to Furibon, "My pretty child," said she, "my dearest love, forget the pain of thy ear but for a moment, and fetch that vile wretch hither; take our guards, both horse and foot, seize him, and punish him as he deserves."

Furibon, encouraged by his mother, and attended by a great number of armed soldiers, entered the garden, and saw Leander under a tree, who threw a stone at him, which wounded his arm; and the rest of his followers he pelted with oranges. But when they came running with a full career towards him, thinking to have seized him, he was not to be seen; he had slipped behind Furibon, who was but in a bad condition already; but Leander played him one trick more, by hampering his legs in such a manner with a cord, that he fell upon his nose upon the gravel, and bruised his face so that they were forced to take him up, carry him away, and put him to bed.

Leander, satisfied with this revenge, returned to his servants, who waited for him, and giving them money sent them back to his castle, that none might know the secret of his red cap and roses.

As yet he had not determined whither to go; however, he mounted his fine horse Gris-de-line, and laying the reins upon his neck, let him take his own road; and thus he rode through woods and forests, over hills and dales, resting sometimes for eating and sleeping's sake, without meeting any thing remarkable: but at length he arrived in a forest, where he stopped to shelter himself from the extremity of the heat.

He had not been above a minute there before he heard a lamentable noise of sighing and sobbing; and looking about him, he beheld a man, that ran, made several stops, then ran again, sometimes crying, sometimes silent, then tearing his hair, then thumping his breast as if he would have beaten his breath out of his body; so that he took him for some unfortunate madman. He seemed to be both handsom and young: his garments had been magnificent, but

he had torn them all to tatters. The prince, moved with compassion, made towards him, and mildly accosting him, "Sir," said he, "your condition appears so bad and deplorable, that I cannot forbear to ask the cause of your sorrow, assuring you of every assistance that lies in my power." "Oh, Sir," answered the young man, "nothing can remedy my miseries; this day my dear mistress is to be sacrificed to an old jealous barbarian, who has a great estate, but who will make her the most miserable person in the world." "Does she love you then?" said Leander. "I flatter myself so," answered the young man. "Where is she?" continued Leander. "In a castle at the end of this forest," answered the lover. "Very well," said Leander; "stay you here till I come again, and in a little while I will bring you good news." He then put on his little red cap, and wished himself in the castle. He was hardly got thither before he heard the pleasing sound of soft musick; but when he arrived, the whole castle resounded with all sorts of musick. He entered into a great room, where the friends and kindred of the old man and the young lady were assembled. Nothing could be more amiable than she was; but the paleness of her complexion, the melancholy that appeared in her countenance, and the tears that now and then dropt as it were by stealth from her eyes, discovered the trouble of her mind.

Leander now became invisible, and placed himself in a corner of the room, that he might discover who the persons were; and he soon perceived the father and mother of the maid, by their private chiding her for not appearing with the sprightliness of a bride; which, after they had done, they returned to their seats. Leander placing himself behind the mother's chair, and laying his lips to her ear, "Assure yourself," said he, "that if you compel your daughter to give her consent to marry that old dotard, before eight days are expired, you shall certainly be punished with death." The woman, frightened to hear such a terrible sentence pronounced upon her, and yet not know from whence

it came, gave a loud shriek, and fell upon the floor. Her husband asked her what she ailed? she cried, she was a dead woman if the marriage of her daughter went forward; and therefore, that she would not yield to it for all the world. Her husband laughed at her, and called her a fool. But the invisible Leander accosting the man, "you old incredulous fool," said he, "believe your wife, or it will be the worse for you: break off this match, and bestow her upon the person she loves." These words produced a wonderful effect; for the old man was immediately dismissed, with an excuse, that all matches were made in heaven, and that they had received an immediate order from thence to break off this. He would fain have been at his whys and wherefores, and what the devil is the matter? and threatened them with the spiritual court; but Leander trod so hard upon his gouty toes, and rung such a larum in his ears, that not being able any longer to hear himself speak, away he limped, murmuring like a hackney coachman that would have more than his hire.

Now the distracted lover was sought for, when he the least expected it, and was brought to the castle, where Leander with impatience waited for his coming. The lover and his mistress were ready to die for joy, and the entertainment prepared for the nuptials of the old man, served for those of these happy lovers. Leander, assuming his own shape, appeared at the hall door, as a stranger drawn thither by the report of this extraordinary wedding.

As soon as the married lover perceived him, he ran and fell at his feet, thanking him in terms inspired by the warmest sense of gratitude. He staid two days in the castle, and if he would have ruined them he might, for they offered him all that they were worth, and it was with regret that he quitted such generous and benevolent company.

From hence he travelled on, and came to a great city, where, upon his arrival, he understood there was a great and solemn procession, in order to the shut-

ting up a young virgin, against her will, among the vestal nuns. The prince was touched with compassion; and thinking the best use he could make of his cap, was to redress public wrongs, and relieve the oppressed, he flew to the temple, where he saw the young virgin crowned with flowers, clad in white, and with her dishevelled hair flowing about her shoulders. Two of her brothers led her by each hand, and her mother followed her with a great crowd of men and women. Leander being invisible, cried out, "Stop, stop, wicked brethren; stop, rash and inconsiderate mother; heaven forbids this unjust ceremony: if you proceed any farther, you shall be squeezed to death like so many frogs." They looked about, but could not conceive from whence these terrible menaces came. The brothers said it was only their sister's sweetheart, who nad hid himself in some hole to counterfeit a voice from heaven. At which Leander, in wrath, took a long cudgel, and they had no reason to say the blows were not well laid on. The multitude fled, the vestals ran away, and Leander was left alone with the victim: immediately he pulled off his red cap, and asked the virgin wherein he might serve her. She answered him, with a confidence rarely to be expected from a virgin of her age, that there was a certain gentleman whom she would be glad to marry, but that he wanted an estate. Leander then shook his rose so long, that he supplied them with ten millions; after which they married and lived happily together.

But his last adventure was the most agreeable: for entering into a wide forest, he heard the lamentable cries of a young person, as if some violence was offered to her. Looking about him every way, at length he spied four men well armed, that were carrying away by force a young lady, thirteen or fourteen years of age: upon which, making up to them as fast as he could, "What harm has that virgin done," said he, "that you do her this violence?" "Ha, ha, my little master," cried he who seemed to be the ring-leader

of the rest; "who made you an examiner?" "I command ye," said Leander, "to let her alone, and go about your business." "Oh, yes, to be sure," cried they, laughing; whereupon the prince alighted, put on his red cap, not thinking it otherwise prudent to attack four, who seemed strong enough to fight a dozen. They must have had good eyes, who could have seen him when his cap was on. One of them stayed to take care of the young lady, while the three others went after Gris-de-line, who gave them a good deal of exercise. The robbers thinking he was fled, "It is not worth while to pursue him," said they, "let us only catch his horse." The young lady continued her cries and complaints: "Oh my dear princess," said she, "how happy was I in your palace! How is it possible for me to live without your company! Did you but know my sad misfortune, you would send your amazons to rescue poor Abricotina." Leander having listened to what she said, without delay seized the ruffian that held her, and bound him fast to a tree before he had time or strength to defend himself. At length, upon his hideous outcries and continual bawling, one of his comrades returned puffing and blowing; and seeing him in that condition, asked him how he came bound? "Old nick did it, I think," cried the fellow; "for whosoever I felt, I am sure I saw nobody." That is a lame excuse," said the other; "but I always took thee for a cowardly rascal, and now I find it true, to let a girl bind thee to a tree;" and with that he laid him over the shoulders with a good stirrup-leather, till he made him roar again.

Leander having diverted himself awhile with his cries, he then went to the second, and taking him by both arms, bound him in the same manner to another tree just opposite, so that he stood facing his comrade, who could not forbear retorting upon him, "Who is the brave, the stout, the valiant Hector now?—art not thou a cowardly whelp, to suffer thyself to be tied to a tree by nobody at all?" The fellow said

not a word, but hung down his head, ashamed and astonished to find himself bound by an invisible power.

In the mean time Abricotina made the best of her good fortune, and betook herself to her heels, not knowing which way she went. But Leander missing her, called out to his Gris-de-line three times; who finding a force upon him to obey his master s call, by two kicks with his hoof rid himself of the two ruffians who had pursued him; one of them had his head broke, and the other three of his ribs. And now Leander only wanted to overtake Abricotina; for he had thought her so handsome, that he wished to see her again, and presently overtook her. But he found her so weary, that she was forced to lean against a tree, not being able to support herself. When she saw Gris-de-line coming towards her. "How lucky am I!" cried she; "this pretty little horse will carry me to the palace of pleasure. Leander heard her, though she saw not him; he rode up to her Gris-de-line stopped, and Abricotina mounted him Leander clasped her in his arms, and placed her gently before him. Oh, how great was Abricotina' fear, to feel herself fast embraced, and yet see nobody She durst not stir, and shut her eyes for fear of seeing a spirit.

But Leander taking off his little cap, "how comes it, fair Abricotina," said he, "that you are afraid of me, who delivered you out of the hands of the ruffians?" With that she opened her eyes, and knowing him again. "Oh, sir," said she, "I am infinitely obliged to you; but I was afraid I had been with an invisible." "I am not invisible," replied Leander; but the danger you were in has disturbed you, and cast a mist before your eyes." Abricotina would not seem to doubt him, though she were otherwise extremely witty. And after they had prattled for some time of indifferent things, Leander requested her to tell him her age, her country, and by what accident she fell into the hands of the ruffians. "Sir," said she, "you have too highly obliged me, to deny you the satisfac

tion you desire; but pray let not your listening to my story slacken your pace."

"Know then, Sir, there was a certain fairy, who for knowledge had not her equal; yet she fell so deeply in love with a certain prince, that though she was the first fairy that ever had the weakness to be over-ruled by that passion, she married him in despite of all the other fairies, who continually represented to her the wrong she did her whole order; so that they excluded her out of their society, and all she could do was to build herself a great palace upon the borders of their kingdom. But the prince she had espoused grew weary of her, and was quite angry, because he could do nothing but she presently knew it.

"The prince, therefore, finding himself so tormented by the excess of her kindness, stole away one morning; and taking post horses, rode a long way quite out of knowledge, on purpose to hide himself in a dark cave at the foot of a desert mountain, where she might not be able to find him out. But he was mistaken in his project; for she followed him, found him out, and told him she was with child, and therefore conjured him to return to his palace, where he should never want money, horses, hounds, nor arms; and that he should want no sports nor pastimes befitting a great prince. But all this did not prevail upon him; for he was naturally obstinate, and one that would not be curbed of his liberty: He said a hundred harsh and uncivil things to her; called her old fairy and she-devil. 'Well,' said she, 'it is happy for thee that I have more wit than thou hast folly; for now, if I pleased, I could turn thee into a cat, to be always mewing on the tops of the houses; or into a nasty toad, croaking in the mud; or into the ugliest of owls, nay, I could transform thee into a flee to torment the back of some puppy all thy life. But the greatest mischief I can do thee, is to leave thee to thy extravagances; continue in thy den, in thy dark hole, among bats and owls: thou wilt find in time the difference between such company, and the society of a

fairy, who can make herself as charming as she pleases.'

"Saying these words, she immediately got into her flying coach, and disappeared with the swiftness of a bird. And when she was returned to her palace, she turned off all her guards and officers, and took women of the race of the Amazons; and these she sent to keep strict guard upon all the avenues to her island, with strict orders not to let any man set his foot in it. This island she called the island of Calm Delights, and would often say, there could be no real pleasure in keeping company with men; she educated her daughter in these sentiments, than whom there is not a more ovely person in the world; and this is the princess whom I serve; and as all pleasure accompanies her, we never grow old in her palace; what you see me now, I have been these two hundred years. When my mistress was grown up, her mother, the fairy, left her the island, and gave her most excellent lessons to make her life happy. After this the mother returned to the fairy-land, and the princess of Calm Delights governs her little territories with admirable good conduct.

"I do not remember, since I came into the world, that I ever saw any other men besides yourself, and the ruffians that would have carried me away. Those people told me, that they were sent by a certain deformed ill-shaped person, called Furibon, who pretends to love my mistress, though he has only seen her picture. Those fellows hovered about the island for several days, but never durst venture in, our Amazons being too vigilant to let any man enter into it. But as I have the care of the princess's birds, it was my misfortune to let her beloved parrot fly away; and fearing her anger, I imprudently ventured out of the island in search of it; and then it was that the ruffians seized me, and had certainly carried me away, but for your generous and timely rescue."

"Well then," said Leander," "if you think this service merits any return, may I hope, fair Abricotina,

to get admission into the island of Calm Delights, and have a sight of this wonderful princess?" "Oh, Sir," said she, "it is as much as both our lives are worth to make any such attempt. You ought not to be disturbed for want of happiness you never knew: you never was in this palace; and therefore you need only imagine there is no such thing in being." "It is not so easy as you think," replied the prince, "to forget things that are pleasing to the memory: nor can I agree to the sentiments of your princess, that there is no way to enjoy tranquillity, but by excluding society with our sex." "Sir," answered Abricotina, "it is not for me to decide this point; but I must acknowledge that if all men were like you, I would advise the princess to make other laws; though, as I have seen no more than five, and have found four of them so wicked, I conclude that the number of the bad is much superior to that of the virtuous; and therefore it is the best way to banish them all."

While they were thus conversing, they came to the bank of a large river: Abricotina alighting with a nimble jump from the horse, "Farewell, Sir," said she, to the prince, making a profound reverence, "I wish you so much happiness, that all the world may be an island of pleasure to you wherever you come: make haste from hence, for fear of being discovered by our amazons." "And I," said Leander, "wish you a sensible heart, that I may have now and then a small share in your remembrance.

So saying, he gallopped away, and soon entered into the thickest part of a wood, near a river; where he unbridled and unsaddled Gris-de-line, that he might feed at liberty; and putting on his little cap, wished himself in the island of Calm Delights, and his wish was immediately accomplished; for at the same instant he found himself in the place of the world the most beautiful, and which had the least of what was common in it.

The palace was of pure gold, and stood upon pillars of crystal and precious stones, which represented the

zodiac, and all the wonders of nature, all the arts and sciences: the sea with all the variety of fish therein contained; the earth, with all the various creatures which it produces; the chaces of Diana and her nymphs; the noble exercises of the Amazons; the amusements of a country life; flocks of sheep, with their shepherds and dogs; the toils of agriculture, harvests, gardening, flowers, bees. And among all this variety of representations, there was neither man nor boy to be seen, not so much as a little winged cupid; so highly had the princess been incensed against her inconstant husband, as not to shew the least favour to his fickle sex.

"Abricotina did not deceive me," said Leander, to himself; "they have banished from hence the very idea of men; now let us see what they have lost by it. With that he entered into the palace, and at every step he took, he met with objects so wonderful, that when he had once fixed his eyes upon them, he had much ado to take them off again. Gold and diamonds, transcended not so much by their own lustre, as their exquisite disposition. In every room attended youth and beauty, with looks of innocence and love. He viewed a vast number of these apartments, some full of china, no less fine than curious for the sportive fancy of their colouring. Others of porcelain, so very fine, that the walls, which were built of those materials, were quite transparent. Coral, jasper, agates, and cornelians, beautified the rooms of state; and the Princess's presence-chamber was one entire mirror, with the panes so artificially closed together, that it was impossible to be discerned, and every where exposed the charming object.

The throne was one single pearl, hollowed like a shell; whereon she sat environed by her maids of honour, glittering with rubies and diamonds; but all this was nothing in comparison of the princess's incomparable beauty. Her air had all the innocence and sweetness of the most youthful, joined with the superior dignity of riper years. Nothing could equal the

vivacity of her eyes; it was impossible to find any defect in her: she smiled in the most gracious manner upon her maids of honour, who were that day dressed like nymphs, for her diversion.

Now as she did not see Abricotina among the rest, she asked where she was. The nymphs replied, that they had sought for her, but in vain. Upon that, Leander being very desirous to speak, assumed the tone of a parrot, for there were many in the room; and addressing himself invisibly to the princess, "Most charming princess," said he, "Abricotina will return immediately. She was in great danger of being carried away from this palace, but for a young prince, who rescued her." The princess was surprised at the parrot, his answer was so extremely pertinent: "You are very pert, little parrot," said the princess, "and Abricotina, when she comes, shall chastise you for it." "I shall not be chastised," answered Leander, still counterfeiting the parrot's voice; "moreover, she will let you know the great desire that stranger had to be admitted into this palace, that he might convince you of the falsehood of those ideas which you have conceived against his sex." "In truth, pretty parrot," cried the princess, "it is a pity you are not every day so diverting, I should love you dearly." "Ah, if prattling will please you, madam" replied Leander, "I will prate from morning till night." "But," continued the princess, "how shall I be sure my parrot is not a sorcerer?" "He is more in love than any sorcerer can be," replied the prince. At this moment Abricotina entered the room, and falling at her lovely mistress's feet, gave her a full account of what had befallen her, and described the prince in the most lively and advantageous colours.

"I should have hated all men," added she, "had I not seen him! Oh, madam, how charming he is! His air and all his behaviour has something in it so noble and divine; and though whatever he spoke was infinitely pleasing, yet I think I did well in not bringing him hither." To this the princess said nothing, but she asked Abricotina a hundred other questions co..

cerning the prince; whether she knew his name, his country, his birth, from whence he came, and wither he was going; and after this she fell into a profound thoughtfulness.

Leander observed every thing, and continued to prattle as he had begun: "Abricotina is ungrateful, madam," said he, "that poor stranger will die for grief if he sees you not." "Well, parrot, let him die," answered the princess with a sigh; "and since thou undertakest to reason like a person of wit, and not like a little bird, I forbid thee ever to talk to me any more of this unknown person."

Leander was overjoyed to find that Abricotina's and the parrot's discourse had made such an impression on the princess. He looked upon her with pleasure and delight: "Can it be," said he to himself, "that the master-piece of nature, that the wonder of our age, should be confined eternally in an island, and no mortal dare to approach her? "But," continued he, "wherefore am I concerned that all others are banished hence, since I have the happiness to be with her, to see her, to hear, and to admire her; nay more, to love her above all the women in the universe?"

It was late, and the princess retired into a large room of marble and porphyry, where several bubbling fountains refreshed the air with an agreeable coolness. As soon as she was entered, the music began, a sumptuous supper was served up, and the birds from several aviaries on each side of the room, of whom Abricotina had the chief care, opened their little throats in the most agreeable manner.

Leander had travelled a journey long enough to get him a good stomach, which made him draw near the table, where the very smell of such viands was agreeable and refreshing. The princess had a curious tabby cat, for which she had a great kindness. This cat one of the maids of honour held in her arms, saying, "Madam, Bluet is hungry." With that a chair was presently brought for the cat, for he was a cat of quality, and had a necklace of pearl about his

neck. He was served on a gold plate, with a laced napkin before him, and the plate being supplied with meat, Bluet sat with the solemn importance of an alderman. "Ho, ho," cried Leander to himself, an idle tabby malkin, that perhaps never caught a mouse in its life, and I dare say, not descended from a better family than myself, has the honour to sit at table with my mistress: I would fain know whether he loves her so well as I do; and whether it be reasonable that I should only swallow the steam, while he has choice bits to feast upon. Saying this, he placed himself in the chair with the cat upon his knee, for nobody saw him, because he had his little red cap on: and finding Bluet's gold plate so well supplied as it was, with partridge, quails, and pheasants, he made bold with them; so that whatever was set before miss puss disappeared in a trice. The whole court said, no cat ever eat with a better appetite. There were excellent ragouts, and the prince made use of the cat's paw to taste them; but he sometimes pulled his paw too roughly; and Bluet not understanding raillery, began to mew and be quite out of patience. The princess observing it, "bring that fricassee and that tart to poor Bluet," said she, "see how he cries to have them." Leander laughed to himself at the pleasantness of this adventure; but he was very dry, not being accustomed to make such large meals without drinking. By the help of the cat's paw he got a melon with which he somewhat quenched his thirst; and when supper was quite over, he went to the beaufet, and took two bottles of delicious wine.

The princess now retired into her chamber, ordering Abricotina to follow her, and make fast the door; but they could not keep out Leander, who was there as soon as they. However, the princess, believing herself alone with her confidant, "Abricotina," said she, "tell me truly, did not you exaggerate in your description of the unknown prince, for methinks it is impossible he should be so amiable?" "Madam," replied the damsel, "if I failed in any thing, it was of

coming short of what was due to him." The princess sighed and was silent for a time: Then resuming her speech, "I am glad," said she, "thou didst not bring him with thee." "But, madam," answered Abricotina, who was a cunning sly girl, and already penetrated her mistress's thoughts, "suppose he had come to admire the wonders of these beautiful mansions, what harm could he have done us? will you live eternally unknown in a corner of the world, concealed from the rest of human kind? To what purpose serves all your grandeur, pomp, and magnificence, if nobody sees it?" "Hold thy peace, prattler," replied the princess, "and do not now disturb that happy repose which I have enjoyed these six hundred years. Thinkest thou that if I had led an unquiet and turbulent life, I could have lived so great a number of years? Only innocent and calm delights are able to produce such rare effects. Have we not read in the most famous histories the strange revolutions of great kingdoms; the unforeseen turns of inconstant fortune; the unheard-of disorders occasioned by love; the pains of absence and jealousy? And what is the cause of all this, but our converse with men? I am, thanks to my mother's care and good instructions, free from these evils: I am a stranger to the griefs of the soul, the vanity of desires, and the pangs of envy, love, and hatred. Oh, let us live, let us still live, and always live in the same indifference!"

Abricotina durst make no reply; and the princess having waited her answer for some time, asked her whether she had any thing to say. Abricotina then said, she thought it was to very little purpose, her having sent her picture to the courts of several princes, where it only served to make those who saw it miserable; that every one would be desirous to have her, and being unable to satisfy their desire, it would make them desperate. "Yet for all that," said the princess, "I could wish my picture were in the hands of this same stranger." "Oh, madam," answered Abricotina,

"is not his desire to see you violent enough already; would you augment it?" "Yes," cried the princess; "a certain impulse of vanity which I was never sensible of till now, has bred this foolish desire in me." Leander heard all this discourse, and lost not a tittle of what she said; and as there were some of her expressions that gave him hopes, so there were others which absolutely destroyed them.

But it now growing late, the princess retired to her chamber to go to bed. Leander had a great mind to have followed her to her toilet; but, though he might, yet, the respect he had for her would not let him. He thought it became him not to take any more liberty than what she might have lawfully granted him; and his passion was so delicate and ingenuous, that he was nice in the most minute circumstances.

He therefore entered into a cabinet adjoining to the princess's chamber, where he might have the pleasure at least to hear her. The princess presently asked Abricotina whether she had seen any thing extraordinary during her short travels? "Madam," said she, "I passed through one forest, where I saw certain creatures that resembled little children; they skip and dance upon the trees like squirrels; they are very ugly, but have wonderful agility and address." "I wish I had one of them," said the princess; "but if they are so nimble, as you say they are, it is impossible to catch one."

Leander, who had passed through the same forest, knew what Abricotina meant; and presently wishing himself in the place, he caught a dozen of little monkies, some bigger, some less, and all of different colours, and with much ado put them into a large sack; then wishing himself at Paris, where he had heard that a man might have any thing for money, he went and bought a little gold chariot, which he taught six green monkies to draw, harnessed with fine traces of flame-coloured morocco leather, gilt. He went to another place, where he met with two monkies of merit, the most pleasant of which was called Briscambril, the

other Pierceforest; both very spruce and well educated. He dressed Briscambril like a king, and placed him in the coach; Pierceforest he made the coachman; the others were dressed like pages; all which he put into his sack, coach and all; and the princess not being gone to bed, she heard a rumbling of a little coach in her long gallery; at the same time her nymphs came to tell her, that the king of the dwarfs was arrived, and the chariot immediately entered her chamber with all the monkey train. The country monkies began to shew a thousand tricks, which far surpassed those of Briscambril and Pierceforest. To say the truth, Leander conducted the whole machine. He drew the chariot where Briscambril sat arrayed like a king, and making him hold a box of diamonds in his hand, he presented it with a becoming grace to the princess.

The princess's surprise may be easily imagined. Moreover Briscambril made a sign for Pierceforest to come and dance with him. The most celebrated dancers were not to be compared with them in activity. But the princess troubled that she could not divine from whence this curious present came, dismissed the dancers sooner than otherwise she would have done, though she was extremely pleased with them.

Leander, satisfied with having seen the delight the princess had taken in beholding the monkies, thought of nothing now but to get a little repose, which he greatly wanted. But fearing lest he should enter the apartment of some of the princess's maids of honour, he stayed some time in the great gallery: afterwards going down a pair of stairs, and finding a door open, he entered into an apartment the most beautiful and most delightful that ever was seen. There was in it a bed of cloth of gold, enriched with pearls, intermixed with rubies and emeralds; for by this time there appeared day-light sufficient for him to view and admire the magnificence of this sumptuous furniture. Having made fast the door he composed himself to sleep.

He got up very early, and looking about on every

side, he spied a painter's pallet with colours ready prepared, and pencils: remembering what the princess had said to Abricotina, touching her own portrait, he immediately (for he could paint as well as the most excellent masters) seated himself before a mirrour, and drew his own picture first, and then in an oval that of the princess. For he had all her features so strong in his imagination, that he had no occasion for her sitting. And as his desire to please her had set him to work, never did portrait bear a stronger resemblance. He had painted himself upon one knee, holding the princess's picture in one hand, and in the other a label with this inscription.

She is better in my heart.

When the princess went into her cabinet, she was amazed to see the portrait of a man; and she fixed her eyes upon it with so much the more surprize, because she also saw her own with it, and because the words which were written upon the label afforded her an ample subject to exercise her curiosity and deepest thoughts. She was alone at that time, and could only form conjectures on an accident so extraordinary. She persuaded herself that it was Abricotina's gallantry: and all that she desired to know more, was, whether the portrait were only an effect of her fancy, or from a real person. She rose in haste and called Abricotina, while the invisible Leander with his little red cap, slipt into the cabinet, impatient to know what passed.

The princess bid Abricotina look upon the picture, and tell her what she thought of it. After she had viewed it, "I protest," cried she, "'tis the picture of that generous stranger, to whom I am obliged for my life.———Yes, yes, I am sure it is he; his very features, shape, hair, and air." "Thou pretendest surprise," said the princess; "but I know it was thou thyself that put it there." "Who, I, madam!" replied Abricotina: "I vow and protest, madam, I never saw the picture before in my life. Should I be so bold to conceal from your knowledge a thing that

so nearly concerns you? And by what miracle could I come by it? I never could paint; nor did any man ever enter this place; yet here he is painted with you." "Some spirit then must have brought it hither," cried the princess: "How I tremble for fear, madam," said Abricotina. "was it not rather some lover? And therefore, if you will take my advice, let us burn it immediately." "'Twere a pity to burn it," cried the princess sighing; "a finer piece, methinks, cannot adorn my cabinet." And saying these words, she cast her eyes upon it. But Abricotina continued obstinate in her opinion, that it ought to be burnt, as a thing that could not come there but by the power of magic. And these words,

"She is better in my heart,"

said the princess, "must we burn them too?" "No favour must be shewn to any thing," said Abricotina, "not even to your own portrait. Abricotina ran away immediately for some fire, while the princess went to look out at the window, no longer able to behold a picture that made such a deep impression in her heart. But Leander, being unwilling to let his performance be burnt, took this opportunity to convey it away without being perceived. And he was hardly got out of the cabinet, when the princess turned about to look once more upon that enchanting picture which so infinitely pleased her. But how strangely was she surprized to find it gone! She sought for it all the room over; and Abricotina returning, she asked her whether she knew what was become of it? But she was no less surprised than her mistress; so that this last adventure put them both into the most terrible fright.

As soon as Leander had hid the picture, he returned, for he took great delight in seeing and hearing his incomparable mistress; he ate every day at her table with the tabby cat, who fared never the worse for that: But Leander's satisfaction was far from being complete, seeing he durst neither speak, nor shew himself; and he knew it was not a common thing for ladies to fall in love with persons invisible.

The princess had an universal taste for fine things; and in the present situation of her heart she wanted amusement. One day, when she was attended by all her nymphs, she was saying to them, it would give her great pleasure to know how the ladies were drest in all the courts of the universe, that she might chuse the most genteel. There needed no more words to send Leander all over the world. He wished himself in China, where he bought the richest stuffs he could lay his hands on, and got patterns of all the court fashions; from thence he flew to Siam, where he did the same, and in three days he travelled all the four parts of the world; and from time to time brought what he bought to the palace of Calm Delights, and hid it all in a chamber which he kept locked to himself. When he had thus collected together all the rarities he could meet with, for he never wanted money, his rose always supplying him, he went and bought five or six dozen of dolls, which he caused to be dressed at Paris, which is the place in the world where most regard is paid to fashions. They were all dressed variously, and as magnificent as could be: And Leander placed them all in the princess's closet.

When she entered it, she was never more agreeably surprised, to see such a company of little mutes, with every one a present of watches, bracelets, diamond buckles, or necklaces; and the most remarkable of them held a picture box in its hand, which the princess opening, found it contained Leander's, for her idea of the first made her easily know the second. She gave a loud shriek, and looking upon Abricotina, "here has appeared of late," said she, "so many wonders in this place, that I know not what to think of them; my birds are all grown witty; I cannot so much as wish, but presently I have my desires; twice have I now seen the portrait of him who rescued thee from the ruffians; and here are silks of all sorts, diamonds, embroideries, laces, and an infinite number of other rarities. What fairy, or what dæmon, is it that takes such care to do me these agreeable services?"

Leander was overjoyed to hear and see her so much concerned about his picture, and calling to mind that there was in a grotto, which she often frequented, a certain pedestal, on which a Diana, not yet finished, was to be erected, on this pedestal he resolved to place himself in an extraordinary habit, crowned with laurel, and holding a lyre in his hand, on which he played like another Apollo. He waited immediately the princess's retiring to this grotto, which she did every day, since her thoughts had been taken up with this unknown person: for what Abricotina had said, joined to the sight of the picture, had almost quite destroyed her repose; her brisk lively humour changed into a pensive melancholy, and she grew a great lover of solitude.

When she entered the grotto, she made a sign that nobody should follow her; so that her young damsels dispersed themselves into the neighbouring walks. The princess threw herself upon a bank of green turf, sighed, wept, and even talked, but so softly, that Leander could not hear what she said. He had put his red cap on, that she might not see him at first; but soon after having taken it off, she beheld him with an extraordinary surprize. At first she took him for a real statue; for he observed exactly the attitude in which he had placed himself, without moving so much as a finger. She beheld it with a kind of pleasure intermixed with fear: but pleasure soon dispelled her fear; and continuing to view the pleasing figure, which so exactly resembled the life, the prince, having tuned his lyre, played on it most delightfully.

Though the princess was so greatly surprised that she could not resist the fear that seized her: she grew pale of a sudden, and fell into a swoon. Leander being alarmed, leaped from the pedestal, and putting on his little red cap, that he might not be perceived, took the princess by the arms, and gave her all the assistance that his zeal and ardour could inspire. At length she opened her charming eyes, and looked about her in search of him, but she could perceive

nobody: yet she felt somebody who held her hands, kissed them, and bedewed them with his tears. It was a long time before she durst speak; and her spirits were in a confused agitation, between fear and hope. She was afraid of the spirit, but loved the figure of the unknown. At length, "Courtly Invisible," cried she, "why are you not the person that I desire you should be?" At these words Leander was going to declare himself, but durst not do it as yet: for, said he, if I affright the object I adore again, and make her fear me, she will not love me. This consideration made him keep silence, and determined him to retire into a corner of the grotto.

The princess then believing herself alone, called Abricotina, and told her all the wonders of the animated statue; that it had played divinely, and that the invisible had greatly assisted her when she lay in a swoon. "What pity 'tis," said she, "that this invisible should be so frightful, for nothing can be more amiable or acceptable than his behaviour!" "Who told you, madam," answered Abricotina, "that he is as frightful as you imagine? Psyche thought that cupid had been a serpent; and your case and her's are much alike; neither are you less beautiful: and if cupid loved you, would you not return his love?" "If cupid and the unknown person are the same," replied the princess, blushing, "I could be content to love cupid; but, alas, how far am I from such a happiness! I am attached to a chimera; and this fatal picture of the unknown, joined to what thou hast told me of him, have inspired with me inclinations so contrary to the precepts which I received from my mother, that I am afraid of being punished for them." "Oh, madam," said Abricotina, interrupting her, "have you not troubles enough already? why should you anticipate afflictions which may never come to pass?" It is easy to imagine what pleasure Leander took in this conversation.

In the mean time the little Furibon, still enamoured of the princess, whom he never saw, expected with im-

patience the return of the four men whom he had sent to the island of Calm Delights. One of them at last came back, and after he had given the prince a particular account of what had passed, told him that the island was defended by Amazons, and that unless he sent along with him a very powerful army, it would be impossible to get into it.

The king his father was dead, and he now lord of all. Disdaining therefore any repulse, he raised an army of four hundred thousand men, and put himself at the head of them, appearing like another Tom Thumb upon a war horse. Now, when the Amazons, perceived his mighty host, they gave the princess notice of it, who immediately dispatched away her trusty Abricotina to the kingdom of the fairies, to beg her mother's instructions what she should do to drive the little Furibon from her territories. But Abricotina found the fairy in an angry humour. "Nothing that my daughter does," said she, "escapes my knowledge: the prince Leander is now in her palace, he loves her, and she has a tenderness for him. All my cares and precepts have not been able to guard her from the tyranny of love, and she is now under his fatal dominion. Alas! that cruel deity is not satisfied with the mischiefs he has done to me, but exercises his dominion over that which I love more dearly than my life. But it is the decree of destiny, and I must submit: Therefore, Abricotina, be gone; I'll not hear a word more of a daughter, whose behaviour has so much displeased me."

Abricotina returned with these bad tidings, whereat the princess was almost distracted; and this was soon perceived by Leander, who was near her, though she did not see him, and beheld her grief with the greatest pain. However, he durst not then open his lips; but recollecting that Furibon was exceedingly covetous, he thought that by giving him a sum of money he might perhaps prevail with him to retire.

Thereupon he dressed himself like an Amazon, and wished himself in the forest to catch his horse. He

had no sooner called him, than he came leaping, prancing, and neighing for joy, for he was grown quite weary of being so long absent from his dear master; but when he beheld him dressed like a woman, he hardly knew him, and at first thought himself deceived: But Leander mounted him, and soon arrived in the camp of Furibon, where every body took him for a real Amazon, and gave notice to Furibon, that a lady was come to speak with him from the princess of Calm Delights. Immediately the little king put on his royal robes, and having placed himself upon his throne, he looked like a great toad counterfeiting a king.

Leander harangued him, and told him, that the princess preferring a quiet and peaceable life to the fatigues war, had sent him to offer his majesty as much money as he pleased to demand, provided he would suffer her to continue in peace; but if he refused her proposal, she would omit no means that might serve for her defence. Furibon replied, that he took pity on her, and would grant her the honour of his protection; but that he demanded a hundred thousand thousand millions of pounds, and without that sum paid he would not return to his kingdom. Leander answered that such a vast sum would be too long in counting, and therefore if he would say how many rooms full he desired to have, the princess was generous and rich enough to satisfy him. Furibon was astonished to hear, that instead of demanding an abatement, she would rather offer an augmentation: and it came into his wicked mind to take all the money he could get, and then seize the Amazon and kill her, that she might not return to her mistress.

He told Leander therefore, that he would have thirty chambers filled with pieces of gold, and that then upon his royal word he would return. Leander being conducted into the chambers that were to be filled, he took his rose and shook it, till every room was filled with all sorts of coin.

Furibon was in an ecstasy, and the more gold he saw, the greater was his desire to seize the Amazon, and get the princess into his power; so that when all the rooms were full, he commanded his guards to seize her, alleging she had brought him counterfeit money. Accordingly, the guards were going to lay hold upon the Amazon; but Leander put on his little red cap and disappeared: the guards believing she had escaped, ran out and left Furibon alone; when Leander, laying hold of the opportunity, took the tyrant by the hair, and twisted his head off with the same ease he would a pullet's; nor did the little wretch of a king see the hand that killed him.

Leander having got his head, he wished himself in the palace of Calm Delights, where he found the princess walking, and with grief considering the message which her mother had sent her, and on the means to repel Furibon, which she looked upon as difficult, she being alone with a small number of Amazons, who were unable to defend her; but on a sudden she beheld a head hanging in the air, without any body that she could see to hold it. This prodigy astonished her so, that she could not tell what to think of it: but her amazement was increased when she saw the head laid at her feet without seeing the hand who did it, and yet at the same time hearing a voice that uttered these words:

> "Charming Princess, cease your fear
> Of Furibon; whose head see here."

Abricotina, knowing Leander's voice, cried, "I protest, madam, the invisible person who speaks, is the very stranger that rescued me." The princess seemed astonished, but yet pleased. "Oh," said she, "if it be true that the invisible and the stranger are the same person, I confess I should be glad to make him my acknowledgments." Leander, still invisible, replied, I will yet do more to deserve them. And so saying, he returned to Furibon's army, where the report of his death was already spread throughout the camp. As soon as he appeared there in his usual

habit and countenance, every body came about him; all the officers and soldiers surrounded him, uttering the loudest acclamations of joy. In short, they acknowledged him for their king, and that the crown of right belonged to him; for which he thanked them, and, as the first mark of his royal bounty, divided the thirty rooms of gold among the soldiers; so that this great army was enriched for ever. This done, he returned to his princess, ordering the army to march back into his kingdom.

The princess was gone to bed; and the profound respect he had for her would not permit him to enter her chamber. He retired therefore into his own; but by what accident I know not, he forgot to make fast the door as he was wont to do.

The princess could not sleep for the heat, and the disquiet of her mind; so that she arose before the sun, and in her morning dress went down into this lower apartment; but how strangely was she surprized to find Leander asleep upon the bed! However, she had then leisure enough to take a full view of him without being perceived, and to convince herself that he was the person whose picture she had in her diamond box. "It is impossible," said she, that this should be a spirit, for can spirits sleep? Is this a body composed of air and fire, without substance, as Abricotina told me?" She softly touched his hair, and heard him breathe, and the sight of him raised alternate fear and pleasure in her breast. But while she was thus attentively surveying him, her mother the fairy entered with such a dreadful noise, that Leander started out of his sleep. But how strangely was he surprized, how deeply afflicted, to behold his beloved princess in the most deplorable condition! her mother dragged her by the hair, and loaded her with a thousand bitter reproaches. In what grief and consternation were the two young lovers, who saw themselves now upon the point of being separated for ever! The princess durst not open

her lips to the incensed fairy, but cast her eyes upon Leander, as it were to beg his assistance.

He judged rightly, that he ought not to deal by rugged means with a power superior to his, and therefore he sought by his eloquence and submission to move the incensed mother. He ran to her, threw himself at her feet, and besought her to have pity upon a young prince, who would never change his affection for her daughter, but would make it his sovereign felicity to make her happy. The princess, encouraged by his example, also embraced her mother's knees, and told her, that without the king she should never be happy, and that she was greatly obliged to him. "You know not the misfortunes of love," cried the fairy, "nor the treacheries of which lovers are capable; they bewitch us only to poison the happiness of our lives; I have known it by experience; and why will you suffer the same misfortunes?" "Is there no exception, madam?" replied the princess; "the king's assurances, which I believe to be sincere, are they not sufficient to secure me from your fears?"

But neither tears not intreaties could move the implacable fairy; and it is very probable she would never have pardoned them, had not the lovely fairy Gentilla appeared at that instant in the chamber, more brilliant than the sun. The graces accompanied her, and she was attended by a train of little cupids, that sung a thousand new and pleasing airs, and sported about her like so many little children.

Embracing the old fairy, "Dear sister," said she, "I am persuaded you cannot have forgot the good office I did you when you besought a re-admittance into our kingdom: had it not been for me, you had never been admitted; and since that time I never desired any kindness at your hands; but now the time is come for you to do me a signal piece of service. Pardon, then, this lovely princess; consent to her nuptials with this young prince; I will engage he shall be ever constant to her; the thread of their days shall be spun of gold and silk; they shall live to complete your hap-

piness; and I will never forget the obligation you will lay upon me." "Charming Gentilla," cried the fairy, "I consent to whatever you desire: Come, my dear children, come to my arms, and receive the assurance of my friendship." And so saying, she embraced both the princess and her lover. The fairy Gentilla was in an ecstasy of joy, and all her pretty train joined to form an hymeneal quire, which was so harmonious, that it awakened all the nymphs of the palace, who came to see what was the matter

But what a pleasing surprise was this to Abricotina! She no sooner cast her eye upon Leander but she knew him again; and seeing him hold the princess by the hand, she made no question of their mutual felicity: which she was confirmed in, when the fairy-mother told them, that she would remove the island of Calm Delights, the castle, and all the wonders contained in it, into Leander's kingdom; that she would live with them, and would do them still greater services.

"Whatever your generosity, madam, may inspire you to do," said Leander, "it is impossible that you can honour me with any present comparable to that which I receive from your hands this day. You have rendered me the most happy of all men; and if I know myself, I shall never prove ungrateful." This short compliment pleased the fairy exceedingly; for she was of those ancient days when they used to stand complimenting a whole day upon one leg.

In the mean time Gentilla had sent, by means of Brelic-Breloc, for all the generals and chief officers of Leander's army, to attend and grace the nuptials; but it would require five or six volumes to describe the operas, plays, balls, music, tournaments, and the other magnificence of these charming nuptials. But what was most extraordinary was, that every nymph found among the gallants that Gentilla had sent for, as passionate lovers as if they had known each other above ten years before, though the most was four and twenty hours; but a fairy's wand will produce effects much more extraordinary.

THE DISCREET PRINCESS.

In the time of the first crusades a certain king resolved to join the Christian princes in the war against the infidels in Palestine. Before he undertook this long journey, he put his kingdom into such good order, and the regency into the hands of so able a minister, that he was entirely easy upon that account.

What most disquieted this prince was the care of his family. His queen had not been long dead; she left him no son; but he saw himself father of three young princesses, all marriageable. The eldest of these princesses they named Drona, signifying in our modern style, idle; the second Pratilia, implying talkative; and the third Finetta, names which had all of them a just relation to the characters of the three sisters.

Never was any person so indolent as Drona; she never waked any day till one in the afternoon; she was dragged along to church in the same condition as when she got out of her bed; her night-clothes all tumbled, her gown loose, no girdle; and very often one slipper of one sort, and one of another. They used to rectify this mistake before night, but they could never prevail upon this princess to go any otherwise than in slippers; it was a most insupportable fatigue to put on shoes. So soon as she had dined she sat down to her toilet, where she continued till evening; the rest of her time till midnight she employed at play and eating her supper; after that, they were almost as long in pulling off her clothes as they had been in putting them on; she could never be persuaded to go to bed till it was broad day.

Pratilia led quite another sort of a life. This princess was very brisk and active, and employed very little time about her person; but she had a strange itching to talk, that from the very moment she waked till the time she fell asleep again, her mouth wa never shut. She knew the history of all things,

The Invisible Prince.

The Discreet Princess.

ill-managements, tender compacts, the gallantries and intrigues, not only of the whole court, but of the meanest cits. She kept a register of all those wives who pinched their families at home, to appear the finer abroad, and was exactly informed what such a countess's woman and such a marquis's steward gained. The better to be instructed in all these little affairs, she gave audience to her nurse, and mantua-maker, with greater pleasure than she would to any ambassador; and when she had got any thing new, she tired every body with repeating to them these fine stories, from the king her father, down to the footman; for, provided she could but talk, she did not care to whom it was. This itch of talking produced yet another bad effect to this princess; for, notwithstanding her high rank, her too familiar airs emboldened the pert sparks about the court to talk of love to her. She heard their speeches without ceremony, purely to have the pleasure of answering them; for, from morning till night, whatever it might cost her, she must either hear others tattle, or tattle herself. Never did Pratilia, any more than Drona, ever employ herself in thinking, reflecting, or reading. She never troubled herself about household matters, or the amusements of her spindle or needle. In short, these two sisters lived in perfect idleness, as well of mind as of body.

The youngest of these three princesses was of a quite different character. Her thoughts and hands were continually employed: she was of a surprising vivacity, and she applied it to good uses. She danced, sung, and played upon music to perfection: finished with wonderful address and skill, all those works of the hand which generally amuse those of her sex. She put the king's household into exact regulation and order, and, by her care and vigilance, hindered the pilferings of the lower officers; for even in those days princes were cheated by those about them.

Her talents were not bounded there: she had a great deal of judgment, and such a wonderful presence of mind, that she immediately found the means of

extricating herself out of the greatest difficulties. This young princess had, by her penetration, discovered a dangerous snare which a perfidious ambassador had laid for the king her father, in a treaty just ready to be signed by that prince. To punish the treachery of this ambassador and his master, the king altered the article of the treaty, and by wording it in the terms his daughter dictated to him, he in his turn deceived the deceiver himself. The princess moreover discovered a vile piece of roguery which a certain minister had a mind to play the king; and by the advice she gave her father, he so managed it that the perfidy of that traitor fell upon his own head. The princess gave, on several other occasions, such marks of her penetration, and fine genius, that the people gave her the surname of Finetta.

The king loved her far above his other daughters, and depended so much upon her good sense, that if he had no other child but her, he would have began his journey with no manner of uneasiness; but he as much distrusted the conduct of his other daughters, as he relied upon that of Finetta. And so, to be assured of the steps his family might take in his absence, as he was of those of his subjects, he took such measures as I am now going to relate.

The king being very intimate with a powerful fairy, went to pay her a visit, and acquainted her with the uneasiness he was in about his daughters. "It is not," said he "that the two eldest, whom I am uneasy about, have ever done the least thing contrary to their duty: but they have so little sense, are so imprudent, and live so very idly, that I fear, in my absence, they will engage in some foolish intrigue or other, merely to amuse themselves. As for Finetta, I am secure of her virtue; however, I shall treat her as her sisters, to make no distinction; for which reason, sage fairy, I desire you to make three distaffs of glass for my daughters, to be made with such art, that each of them may not fail to break, so soon as she, to whom it belongs, does any thing contrary to her honour."

As this fairy was one of the most expert, she gave the prince three enchanted distaffs, so made as to answer his design; but he was not content with this precaution. He put the princesses into a tower vastly high, and which stood in a very solitary and desert place. The king told his daughters, that he commanded them to take up their residence in that tower during his absence, and charged them not to dmit into it any person whatsoever. He then took from them all their officers and servants, of both sexes, and after having presented them with the enchanted distaffs, the qualities of which he told them, he kissed the princesses, locked the doors of the tower, of which he took himself the keys, and departed.

You will perhaps believe that these princesses were now in danger of perishing with hunger. Not at all. Care was taken to fix a pulley to one of the windows of the tower: there ran a rope through it, to which the princesses tied a basket, which they let down daily. In this basket was put, every day, provisions, which, when they had drawn up, they carefully carried away the rope to their chamber.

Drona and Pratilia led such a life, in this solitude, as filled them with despair; they fretted themselves to such a degree as was beyond expression; but they were forced to have patience; for their distaffs were represented to them so terrible, that they were afraid the least step, though ever so little awry, or equivocal, might break them.

As for Finetta, she was not in the least out of humour; her spindle, needle, and music, furnished her with sufficient amusements; and besides this, by order of the minister who then governed the state, there was care taken to put into their basket, letters which informed the princesses of what ever passed either within or out of the kingdom. The king allowed it should be so; and the minister, to make his court to the princesses, did not fail of being very exact as to this article. Finetta read all this news with

great attention, and diverted herself with it; but as for her two sisters, they took no manner of notice of it. They said they were too much out of humour to amuse themselves with such trifles; they ought at to have, at least, some amusing games to divert their melancholy, during their father's absence.

Thus they passed their time in great disquiet, murmuring continually at their hard fortune; and they did not fail to say that it was much better to be born happy, than to be born the daughter of a king. They were frequently at the windows of the tower, to see at least what passed in the country. One day, as Finetta was busied in her chamber about some pretty work, her sisters, who were at the window, saw at the foot of the tower, a poor woman clothed in rags and tatters, who cried out to them in a sorrowful tone; and in a very moving manner, complained to them of her misery. She begged of them with her hands joined together, that they would let her come into the castle, telling them, that she was a wretched stranger, who knew how to do a thousand things, and would serve them with the utmost fidelity. At first the princesses called to mind their father's orders, not to let any one come into the tower; but Drona was so weary of waiting upon herself, and Pratilia was so uneasy at having nobody to talk to but her sisters, that the earnest desire one had to be dressed piece-meal, and the eagerness of the other to have somebody else to chat with, made them resolve to let in this poor stranger.

"Do you think," said Pratilia to her sister, "that the king's order extends to this unfortunate wretch? I believe we may take her in without any consequence." "You may do, sister," answered Drona, "what you please." Then Pratilia, who only waited her consent, immediately let down the basket. The poor woman got into it, and the princesses drew her up by the help of the pulley.

When they viewed this woman nearer them, the horrible nastiness of her clothes turned their stomacs-

They would have given her others; but she told them, he would change them the next day; but at present, she could think of nothing but her work. She was speaking these words, when Finetta came into the chamber. This princess was strangely surprised to see this unknown creature with her sisters. They told her the reasons which had induced them to draw her up. Finetta, who saw it was a thing done, dissembled her vexation at this imprudent action.

In the mean time, this new servant of these princesses took a hundred turns about the castle, under pretence of doing her work; but in reality to see how things were disposed in it; for this pretended beggar-woman was the son of a powerful king, a neighbour of the princesses' father. This young prince was one of the most artful and designing persons of his time, and governed entirely the king his father; which to do, indeed, required not much address; for that prince was of so sweet and easy a character, that he had the surname of mild or gentle. And as for this prince, who always acted with artifice and cunning, he was by the people surnamed Rich-in-craft, but in shortness Rich-Craft.

He had a younger brother, who was as full of good qualities as he was of bad; however, notwithstanding there different tempers, there was between these two princes such a strict union, that every body wondered at it. Besides the good qualities which the youngest prince was possessed of, the beauty of his face, and the gracefulness of his person, were so remarkable, that he was generally called Bel-a-voir. It was prince Rich-Craft who had put the ambassador of the king his father upon that wicked turn in the treaty, which was frustrated by the address of Finetta, and fell upon themselves. Rich-Craft, who before that had no great love for the king, the princesses' father, since then bore him the utmost aversion; so that when he had notice of the precautions which that prince had taken, in relation to his daughters, he took a pernicious pleasure to deceive, if possible, the prudence of so suspi

cious a father. Accordingly, Rich-Craft got leave of the king his father to travel upon some invented pretence, and took such measures as gained him entrance into the tower where these princesses were confined, as you have been informed.

In examining the castle, this prince observed that it was very easy for the princesses to make themselves heard by the people going in the road; and he concluded that it was best for him to continue in his disguise all day; because they could, if they had a mind to it, call out to passengers, and have him chastised for his rash enterprise. He therefore remained all day long in his tatters, and counterfeited a professed beggar-woman; but at night, after the princesses had supped, Rich-Craft threw off his rags, and shewed himself dressed like a cavalier in rich apparel, all covered with gold and jewels. The poor princesses were so much frightened at this sight, they began to hasten from him with all possible precipitation. Finetta and Pratilia, who were very nimble, soon got to their chambers; but Drona, who scarce knew how to move, was by the prince soon overtaken.

He immediately threw himself at her feet, declared who he was, and told her that the report of her beauty, and the sight of her picture, had induced him to leave a delightful court to come and offer her his faith and vows. Drona was so much at a loss, that she could not answer one word to the prince, who was still kneeling: but as, amidst a thousand tender endearments, with as many protestations, he ardently conjured her to receive him that very moment for her husband, her natural softness not suffering her to contend, she told Rich-Craft in a very indolent and dronish tone, that she believed him sincere, and accepted his vows. She observed no greater formalities than those which were the conclusion of this marriage; but withal, she lost her distaff, for it broke into a thousand pieces.

Meanwhile Pratilia and Finetta were in strange uneasiness. They had got away separately into their

apartments, and locked themselves in. These apartments were at some distance from each other; and as all three of these princesses were ignorant of their sister's fate, they did not sleep a wink all night long.

Next morning, the pernicious prince led Drona into a ground apartment which was at the end of the garden: where this princess told him how greatly she was disturbed about her sisters, though she dared not see them, for fear they should blame her for her marriage. The prince told her, he would undertake they should approve of it; and, after some discourse, went out, and locked Drona in, without her perceiving it, and then searched carefully every where to find out the princesses. It was some time before he could discover in what chamber they had secured themselves, but at last, the strong inclination which Pratilia had to be always prattling, causing this princess to talk and bewail her destiny to herself, the prince heard her, and coming up to the door, saw her through the key-hole.

Rich-Craft spoke to her through the door, saying to her the same he had told her sister, which was, that it was only to offer her his faith and heart, which had caused him to undertake the enterprize of entering the tower. He praised, not without excessive exaggeration, her wit and beauty; and Pratilia, who was fully persuaded in herself that she was possessed of infinite merit, was foolish enough to believe all the prince told her. She answered him with a torrent of words, which were not over and above disobliging. Certainly this princess must have had a strange fury of speech, to acquit herself as she did; for she was terribly faint, not having tasted a morsel all day, by reason she had nothing fit to eat in her chamber. As she was extremely lazy, and had no manner of thought of any thing else but endless talking, she had not the least foresight: when she wanted any thing, she had recourse to Finetta; and this amiable princess, who was as laborious and provident as her sisters were the contrary, had always in her chamber great abundance

of fine biscuits, pies, macaroons, with dried and wet sweetmeats of all sorts, and of her own making. Pratilia then, who had not the like advantage, finding herself at that time much pressed with hunger, and the protestations which the prince made through the door, opened it at last to that seducer, when he acted again the comedian perfectly well; having well studied his part.

They then both went out of this apartment, and came into the office of the castle, where he found all sorts of refreshments; for the basket furnished the Princesses every day with more than enough. Pratilia could not help being still in pain for her sisters, and what might become of them; but it came into her head, I know not upon what foundation, that they were, doubtless, both locked up in Finetta's chamber, where they wanted for nothing. Rich-Craft used all the arguments he could to confirm her in this belief, and told her, "that they would go and find out the Princesses towards evening. She could not agree with him in that, but said, they should go and see after them as soon as they had done eating.

In short, the Prince and Princess fell to very heartily; and when they had done, Rich-Craft desired to see the finest apartment in the castle; he gave his hand to the Princess, who led him thither; and when they were there, he began to express the tender passion he had for her, and the advantages she would have in marrying him. He told her, as he had done her sister Drona, that she ought to accept of his faith that very moment; because, if she should see her sisters before she had taken him for a husband, they would not fail to oppose it; and being, without contradiction, one of the most powerful of the neighbouring princes, he would, most probably, seem to them a person fitter for her eldest sister than her, who would never consent to a match she herself might desire with all imaginable ardour. Pratilia, after a deal of discourse which signified nothing, was as foolish as her sister had been; she accepted the Prince for

-r husband, and never thought of the effects of her glass distaff till after it was shattered in a hundred pieces.

Towards evening, Pratilia returned to her chamber with the Prince, and the first thing this Princess saw was her glass distaff all broken to bits; she was much troubled at this sight. The Prince asked her the reason of her concern. As her passion for babbling made her incapable of being silent on any score, she foolishly told Rich-Craft the mystery of the distaff, at which this Prince was wickedly overjoyed, since the father of these Princesses would by this means be entirely convinced of the bad conduct of his daughters.

However, Pratilia was no longer in the humour of going to look for her sisters. She had reason to fear they would not approve of her conduct; but the Prince offered himself to do this office, and told her, he would find means to persuade them to approve of it. After this assurance, the Princess, who had not shut her eyes all night, grew very drowsy; and, while she was sleeping, Rich-Craft turned the key upon her, as he had done before to Drona.

When this perfidious Prince had locked up Pratilia, he went into all the rooms of the castle, one after another; and as he found them all open but one, which was fastened in the inside, he concluded for certain, that thither it was Finetta had retired. As he had composed a string of compliments, he went to retail out at Finetta's door the same things he had made use of to her sisters. But this Princess, who was not a dupe, like her elder sisters, heard him a good while, without making the least answer. At last, finding that he knew she was in the room, she told him, if it was true that he had so strong and sincere a passion for her, as he would persuade her, she desired he would go down into the garden, and shut the door upon him, and after that she would talk to him as much as he pleased out of the window of the apartment, which looked into the garden.

Rich-Craft would not agree to this; and as the Princess still resolutely persisted in not opening the door, this wicked Prince, mad with impatience, went and got a billet, and broke it open. He found Finetta armed with a great hammer, which had been accidentally left in a wardrobe near her chamber.

Emotion raised Finetta's complexion; and, though her eyes sparkled with rage, she appeared to Rich-Craft a most enchanting beauty. He would have cast himself at her feet: but she said to him boldly, as she retired, "prince, if you approach me, I will cleave your head with this hammer." "What! beautiful princess," cried Rich-Craft, in his hypocritical tone, "does the love I have for you inspire you with such cruel hatred?" he began to preach to her anew but at the farther part of the room of the violent ardour which the report of her beauty and wonderful wit had inspired him with. He added, that the only motive he had to put on such disguise, was with respect to offer her his hand and heart: and told her, that she ought to pardon, on account of the violence of his passion, his boldness in breaking open her door. He ended by endeavouring to persuade her, as he had her sisters, that it was her interest to receive him for her husband as soon as possible; he told her moreover, he did not know whither her sisters were retired; because he was not in any pain about them, having his thoughts wholly fixed upon her.

The adroit princess, feigning herself entirely pacified, told him, that she must find out her sisters, and after that, they would take their measures altogether: but Rich-Craft answered, that he could by no means resolve upon that, till she had consented to marry him, because her sisters would not fail to oppose the match, on account of their right of eldership.

Finetta, who with good reason distrusted this prince, found her suspicions redoubled by this answer. She trembled to think what might have happened to her sisters, and resolved to revenge them with the same stroke which might make her avoid a misfortune like

what she judged had befallen them.—This young princess then told Rich-Craft, that she readily consented to marry him; but she was fully persuaded that marriages which were made at night, were always unhappy; and therefore desired he would defer the ceremony, of plighting to each other their mutual faith, till the next morning. She added, he might be assured she would not mention a syllable of all this to the princesses, her sisters, and begged him to give her only a little time to say her prayers; that, afterwards, she would lead him to a chamber where he should have a very good bed, and then she would return to her own room till the morrow morning.

Rich-Craft, who was not over and above courageous, seeing Finetta still armed with the great hammer, which she played with like a fan, consented to what the princess desired, and went away, to give her some time to meditate. He was no sooner gone, but Finetta hastened to make a bed over the hole of a sink in one of the rooms of the castle. This room was as handsome as any of the rest; but they threw down the hole of that sink, which was very large, all the filth of the castle. Finetta put over the hole two weak sticks across, then very handsomely made the bed upon them, and immediately returned to her chamber. A moment after came Rich-Craft, and the princess conducted him into the room where she had made his bed, and retired.

The prince, without undressing, threw himself hastily upon the bed, and his weight having all at once broken the slender sticks, he fell down to the bottom of the sink, without being able to stop himself, making twenty bumps in his head, and being all over sorely bruised. The fall of the prince made a great noise in the pipe as he was descending; and besides, being not far from Finetta's chamber, she soon knew her artifice had the success she promised herself, and she felt a joy which was extremely agreeable to her. It is impossible to describe the pleasure it gave her to hear him muttering in the sink. He very well deserved

that punishment; and the princess had reason to rejoice at it.

But her joy was not so great as to make her unmindful of her sisters; her first care was to seek for them. It was no hard matter to find out Pratilia, Rich-Craft, after double locking that princess into her chamber, having left the key in the door. Finetta went hastily in; and the noise she made awoke her sister in a start. At the sight of her she was in great confusion. Finetta related to her after what manner she had got rid of the wicked prince who had come to insult them. Pratilia, at this news, was as one thunder-struck; for, spite of her tattling, she was so very wise as to have ridiculously believed every word of what Rich-Craft had told her. There are still more such dupes as she in the world.

That princess dissembling the excess of her sorrow, went out of her chamber with Finetta, to look after Drona. They went into all the rooms of the castle, but could not find her. At last, Finetta bethought herself, that she might be in the apartment of the garden, where, indeed, they found her half dead with despair and faintness; for she had not tasted any thing all that day. The princesses gave her all the necessary assistance; after which they told each other their adventures, which affected Drona and Pratilia with mortal sorrow. Then they went all three to take repose.

In the mean time, Rich-Craft passed the night very uncomfortably, and when day came, he was not much the better. This prince was groping among dismal dungeons, the utmost horror of which he could not see, because the least glimse of light could not enter. However, at last, with a great deal of painful struggling he came to the end of the drain, which ran into a river at a considerable distance from the castle. He found means to make himself heard by some men who were fishing in the river, by whom he was drawn out in such a pickle, as raised compassion in those good people.

He caused himself to be carried to his father's court to get cured; and this disgrace made him take such a strong hatred and aversion to Finetta, that he thought less on his cure than on revenge.

That princess passed her time but very sadly; honour was a thousand times dearer to her than life, and the shameful weakness of her sisters had thrown her into so great a despair, that she had much difficulty to get the better of it. At the same time, the ill state of health of those princess, which was the consequence of their unworthy marriages, put moreover Finetta's constancy to the proof. Rich-Craft, who had long been a deceiver, failed not since this adventure, mustering up all his wits, to make himself in the highest degree a tricking villain; neither the sink, nor the bruises, gave him so much vexation as his having been outwitted. He surmised the effects of his two marriages, and to tempt the ailing princesses, he caused to be carried, under the windows of the castle, great tubs full of trees all laden with fine fruit. Drona and Pratilia, who were often at the windows, could not but see the fruit; and immediately they had a violent desire to eat of it, and they teized Finetta to go down in the basket to gather some. The complaisance of that princess was so great, and being willing to oblige her sisters, she did as they desired her, and brought up the fruit, which they devoured with the utmost greediness.

The next day there appeared fruits of another kind. This was a fresh temptation for the princesses, and a fresh instance of Finetta's complaisance. But, immediately, Rich-Craft's officers, who were in ambush, and had failed of their design the first time, were not wanting to complete it the second. They seized upon Finetta, and carried her off in the sight of her sisters, who tore their hair for anguish and despair.

Rich-Craft's guards executed so well their orders, that they brought Finetta to a country-house, where the prince was for the recovery of his health. As he

was transported with fury against this princess, he said to her a hundred brutish things, which she answered always with firmness, and greatness of soul, worthy a heroine as she was. At last, after having kept her some time prisoner, he had her brought to the top of a high mountain, whither he followed immediately after. Here it was that he told her, they were going to put her to death, and after such a manner as would sufficiently revenge all the injuries she had done him. Then that base prince very barbarously shewed Finetta a barrel stuck in the inside all round with pen-knives, razors, and hooked nails, and told her that, in order to give her the punishment she deserved, they were going to put her into that vessel, and roll her down from the top of the mountain into the valley. Though Finetta was no Roman, she was no more afraid of the punishment than Regulus heretofore was at the sight of a like destiny. This young princess kept up all her firmness, and presence of mind. Rich-Craft, instead of admiring her heroic character, grew more enraged against her than ever, and resolved to hasten her death; and to that end bent himself down to look into the barrel, which was to be the instrument of his vengeance, to examine if it was well provided with all its murdering weapons.

Finetta, who saw her persecutor very attentive in looking in the barrel, lost no time, but very dexterously pushed him into it, and rolled him down the mountain, without giving the prince any time to know where he was. After this she ran away, and the prince's officers, who had seen with extreme grief after what a cruel manner their master would have treated this amiable princess, made not the least attempt to stop her; besides, they were so much frightened at what happened to Rich-Craft, that they thought of nothing else but stopping the barrel. but their endeavours were all in vain; he rolled down to the bottom of the mountain, where they took him out wounded in a thousand places.

This accident to Rich-Craft threw the gentle king

and prince Bel-a-voir into the utmost despair. As for the people, they were not at all concerned, Rich-Craft being by all extremely hated; and they were even astonished to think that the young prince, who had such noble and generous sentiments, could love this unworthy elder brother; but such was the good-nature of this prince, that he was strongly attached to all who were of the family; and Rich-Craft always had the address to shew him such tender marks of affection, that this prince could never have forgiven himself, had he not answered them with interest. Bel-a-voir was then touched with excessive grief at the wounds of his brother, and he tried all means to have him perfectly cured; but notwithstanding all the care of him by all about him, nothing could do Rich-Craft any good: on the contrary, his wounds seemed every day to grow worse, and to prognosticate he would linger on a long while in misery.

Finetta after having disengaged herself from this terrible danger, was now got very happily to the castle, where she had left her sisters, and where it was not long before she had new troubles to encounter with. The two princesses were brought to bed, each of them of a son; at which Finetta was exceedingly perplexed. However the courage of this princess did not abate: the desire she had to conceal the shame of her sisters, made her resolve to expose herself once more, though she very well knew the danger. To bring about her design, she took all the measures prudence could suggest. She disguised herself in men's clothes, put the children of her sisters into boxes, in which she had bored little holes over against the mouths of these little infants, that they might breathe: she got on horseback, and took along with her these boxes, and some others; and in this equipage, arrived at the gentle king's capital city, where Rich-Craft then was.

So soon as Finetta came into the city, she was told after what a noble manner Bel-a-voir paid for the medicines which were given his brother, which had

brought to court all the mountebanks in Europe; for at that time, there were a great many adventurers, without knowledge or capacity, who gave themselves out for wonderful proficients, having received from heaven the gift to cure all sorts of distempers. These people, whose whole science consists in nothing but to cheat impudently, found always great credit among the people: they knew how to impose upon them by their extraordinary exterior, and by the odd names they went by. These kind of doctors never stay in the place of their nativity; and the prerogative of coming from a long way off, does, with the vulgar, very frequently supply the want of merit.

The ingenious princess, who knew all this, took a name which was entirely strange to that kingdom; this name was Sanatio. She then gave it out, that the Chevalier Sanatio was come to town with wonderful secrets, to cure all sorts of wounds, the most dangerous and inveterate. Bel-a-voir sent immediately for this pretended knight. Finetta came, made the best empiric in the world, threw out five or six terms of art, with a cavalier air; nothing was wanting. The princess was surprised at the good mien and agreeable carriage of Bel-a-voir; and after having discoursed some time with this prince about the wounds of Rich-Craft, she told him, she would go and fetch a bottle of incomparable water, and in the mean while leave two boxes she had brought thither, which contained some excellent ointments, very proper for the wounded prince.

Upon saying this the pretended physician went out, and came no more. They were very impatient at his staying so long. At last, as they were going to send to him to hasten his coming, they heard the cryings of young children in prince Rich-Craft's chamber. This surprised every body; for there was no manner of appearance of any children: some listened attentively, and they found that the cries came from the doctor's boxes.

It was, in reality, Finetta's little nephews. The

princess, had given them a great deal to eat before she came to the palace; but as they had been there now a long time, they wanted more, and explained their necessities by singing this doleful tune. They opened the boxes, and were strangely amazed to find in them actually too little babes, very pretty. Rich-Craft made no doubt immediately but that this was a new trick of Finetta's. He conceived against her such a rage as is not to be expressed; and his pains so greatly increased, that they concluded he must unavoidably die of those hurts.

Bel-a-voir was penetrated with the most lively sorrow; but Rich-Craft, perfidious to his last moment, studied how to abuse the tenderness of his brother. "You have always loved me, prince," cried he, "and you lament your loss of me: I can have no greater proofs of your love; I am dying; but if ever I have been dear to you, grant this one thing, I beg of you, which I am going to ask of you."

Bel-a-voir, who, in the condition wherein he saw his brother, found himself capable of refusing him nothing, promised him, with the most terrible oaths, to grant him whatever he should desire. As soon as Rich-Craft heard these oaths, he said to his brother, embracing him, "I die contented, brother, since I am revenged; for that which I beg of you to do for me, is to ask Finetta in marriage immediately on my decease; you will undoubtedly obtain this wicked princess; and the moment she shall be in your power, plunge your poniard into her heart. Bel-a-voir trembled with horror at these words; he repented the imprudence of his oaths; but it was not now the time to unsay them; and he had no mind his repentance should be taken notice of by his brother, who expired soon after. The gentle king was very sensibly touched at his death. His people, far from regretting Rich-Craft, were extremely glad that his death secured the succession of the crown to Bel-a-voir, whose merit was dear to all.

Finetta, who had once more happily returned to

her sisters, heard soon after of the death of Rich-Craft: and some time after that, news came to the three princesses, that the king their father was come home. This prince came in a hurry to the tower; and his first care was to see the distaffs. Drona went and brought that which belonged to Finetta, and shewed it to the king; then making a very low courtesy, carried it back again to the place whence she had taken it. Pratilia did so too; and Finetta, in her turn brought her distaff: but the king being very suspicious, had a mind to see them all three together. No one could shew her's but Finetta: and the king fell into such a rage against his two eldest daughters, that he sent them that moment away to the fairy, who had given him the distaffs, desiring her to keep them with her as long as they lived, and punish them according to their deserts.

To begin the punishment of these princesses, the fairy led them into a gallery of her inchanted castle, where she had caused to be painted the history of a vast number of illustrious women, who made themselves famous by their virtue and laborious life. By the wonderful effects of fairy art, all these figures moved, and were in action from morning till night. There were seen every where, trophies and devices to the honour of these virtuous ladies; and it was no slight mortification to the two sisters to compare the triumph of these heroines with the despicable situation to which their unhappy imprudence had reduced them. To increase their vexation, the fairy told them, very gravely, that if they had been as well employed as those whom they saw in the picture, they had not fallen into the unworthy errors which had ruined them; but that idleness was the mother of all vice, and the source of all their misfortunes. The fairy added, that to hinder them from falling into the like misfortune, she would give them thorough employment, and, indeed, she obliged the princesses to employ themselves in the coarsest and meanest of work; and without having any regard to their complexion, she

sent them to gather peas in the garden, and pull up the weeds. Drona could not help falling into despair at leading a life which was so little conformable to her inclinations, and died with fatigue and vexation. Pratilia, who some time after found means to make her escape by night out of the fairy's castle, broke her skull against a tree, and died in the arms of some country people.

Finetta's good-nature made her very sensibly grieve for her sisters' fate; and in the midst of these troubles she was informed, that prince Bel-a-voir had asked her in marriage of the king her father, who had consented to it, without giving her any notice thereof; for in those days the inclination of the parties was the last thing they considered in marriage. Finetta trembled at this news; she had reason to fear, lest the hatred which Rich-Craft had for her might infect the heart of a brother who was so dear to him; and she had apprehensions that this young prince married her only to make her a sacrifice to his brother. Full of these disquiets, the princess went to consult the sage fairy, who esteemed her as much as she despised Drona and Pratilia.

The fairy would reveal nothing to Finetta; she only said to her, "princess, you are sage and prudent; you would not hitherto have taken such measures for your conduct, had you not always borne in mind, that distrust is the mother of security. Continue to think earnestly on the importance of this maxim, and you will come to be happy without the assistance of my art. Finetta not having been able to get any farther light of the fairy, returned to the palace in extreme agitation.

Some days after, the princess was married, by an ambassador, in the name of prince Bel-a-voir, and she set out to go to her spouse in a magnificent equipage. She made, in the same manner, her entries into the gentle king's first two frontier towns, and at the third she found Bel-a-voir, who was come to meet her, by order of his father. Every body was surprised

to see the sadness of this prince at the approach of a marriage, for which he had shewn so great a desire; the king himself was forced to interpose, and sent him, contrary to his inclination, to meet the princess.

When Bel-a-voir saw her, he was struck with her charms; he made her his compliments, but in so confused a manner, that the two courts, who knew how much gallantry this prince was master of, believed he was so sensibly touched, that through the force of love, he had lost his presence of mind. The whole town shouted for joy, and there were every where concerts of music and fire-works. In short, after a magnificent supper, preparations were made for conducting them to their apartment.

Finetta, who was always thinking on the maxim which the fairy had revived in her mind, had a design in her head. This princess had gained over one of the women, who had the key of the closet belonging to the apartment which was designed for her; and she had privately given orders to that woman to carry into the closet some straw, and a bladder of sheep's blood, and the entrails of some of those animals which had been dressed for supper. The princess, on some pretence, went into that closet and made a puppet of the straw, into which she put the entrails and the bladder full of blood: after that she dressed it up in a woman's night clothes. When Finetta had finished this puppet, she returned to her company; and after some time they conducted the princess and her spouse to their apartment. When they had allowed as much time at the toilet as was necessary, the ladies of honour took away the flambeaux, and retired. Finetta immediately threw the image of straw upon the bed, and went and hid herself in one of the corners of the chamber.

The prince, after having sighed three or four times very loud, drew his sword, and ran it through the body of the pretended Finetta; at the same instant he found the blood trickle all about, and the straw wife, without motion. "Alas! what have I done!" cried

Bel-a-voir; "what! after so many cruel conflicts! after having so much weighed with myself if I should keep my oath at the expence of a crime! have I taken away the life of a charming princess I was born to love! her charms ravished me the moment I saw her, and yet I had not the power to free myself from an oath, which a brother, possessed with fury, had exacted from me by an unworthy surprise! Oh heavens! could any one so much as dream to punish a woman for having too much virtue? well! Rich-Craft, I have satisfied thy unjust vengeance; but now I will revenge Finetta in her turn, by my death. Yes, beautiful princess, my sword shall——" by these words the princess understanding that the prince, who in his transport had let fall his sword, was feeling for it, in order to thrust it through his body, was resolved he should not be guilty of such a folly, and, therefore, cried out, "My prince, I am not dead; the goodness of your disposition made me divine your repentance, and, by an innocent cheat, I have hindered you from committing the worst of crimes."

Upon which she related to Bel-a-voir the foresight she had in relation to the figure of straw. The prince, all transported to find Finetta alive, admired the prudence she was mistress of on all occasions, had infinite obligations to her for preventing him from committing a crime which he could not think on without horror, and did not comprehend how he could be so weak as not to see the futility of those wicked oaths which had been exacted from him by artifice.

However, if Finetta had not been always persuaded, that distrust is the mother of security, she had been killed, and her death been the cause of that of Bel-a-voir; and then, afterwards, people would have reasoned at leisure upon the oddness of this prince's sentiments. Happy prudence and presence of mind! which preserved this princely pair from the most dreadful misfortunes, for a destiny the sweetest and most delightful.—They always retained for each other a very great tenderness, and passed through a long

succession of happy days, in so much felicity and glory, as is impossible for the most able pen or tongue to describe.

THE FAIR ONE WITH GOLDEN LOCKS.

There was a princess so exceeding fair, that no thing could be more beautiful in the world; and because she was so extremely amiable, she was called The Fair One with Locks of Gold: for her hair shone brighter than gold, was admirably white, and flowed in curls almost down to her feet. These beautiful ringlets were always incircled by a wreath of the sweetest flowers, and her garments were adorned with pearls and diamonds; so that it was impossible to behold her without admiration.

There was a young prince whose territories joined to her's, who was not married, and was both rich and handsome. This prince having heard what had been reported concerning the Fair One with the Locks of Gold, though he had never seen her, fell so desperately in love with her, that he could neither eat nor drink; so that he resolved by a magnificent embassy to demand her in marriage. Accordingly he ordered a most sumptuous coach to be made for his ambassador; allowed him a hundred horses, and a hundred lackeys, and conjured him, if possible, to bring the princess back with him.

When the ambassador had taken his leave of the king, and was departed the kingdom, the whole discourse of the court was of nothing but this match; and the king, who made no question but the Fair One with Locks of Gold would consent to his wishes, began to make great preparations of rich apparel and royal furniture. The ambassador in the meantime arrived where he was sent; and having his audience of the Fair One with Locks of Gold, he delivered the subject of his embassy to her. But whether it was that she was not that day in a good humour, or that she did not

like the compliment, she thanked the ambassador for the honour his master did her, and said she had no inclination to marry.

Hereupon the ambassador left the princess's court very sad and pensive, because she had refused to go with him, he also carried back all the presents which he had brought from the king: for she was prudent, and knew that virgins should never receive presents from young men; so that she would accept of none of his diamonds or other curiosities; but that she might not seem to despise or affront the king, she took a thousand of English pins.

When the ambassador arrived at the king's chief city, where he was expected with great impatience, the people were extremely afflicted to see him return without the Fair One with Locks of Gold; and the king wept like a child; nor could his courtiers give him any consolation.

There was a youth at court, whose beauty outshone the sun, the gracefulness of whose person was not to be equalled, and for his gracefulness and wit, he was called Avenant: The king loved him, and indeed every body except the envious, who could not bear that the king should be kind to him, and entrust him as he did with all his affairs.

Avenant being one day in company with some persons, who, speaking of the ambassador's return, said he had not been able to prevail with the lady, he inconsiderately said, if the king had sent me to the Fair One with Locks of Gold, I dare say I could have prevailed on her to return with me.

These enviers of Avenant's prosperity, immediately ran open-mouthed to the king; saying, "Sir, Sir, what does your majesty think Avenant says? He boasts that if you had sent him to the Fair One with the Golden Hair, he could have brought her with him; which shews he is so vain as to think himself handsomer than your majesty, and that her love for him would have made her follow him wherever he went." This put the king in a violent rage, and

his passion was so great that he hardly knew what he did. "What!" said he, "does this young rogue make a jest at my misfortune, and pretend to set himself above me?—Go, and put him immediately in my great tower, and there let him starve to death."

The king's guards went and seized Avenant, who thought no more of what he had said, dragged him to prison, and used him in the most cruel manner. The poor unfortunate youth had only straw to lie upon, and must soon have died, but for a small stream that ran by the foot of the tower, of which he drank a little sometimes to moisten his mouth, which was almost dried up by hunger.

One day when he was almost quite spent, he said to himself, fetching a deep sigh, "Wherein can I have offended the king? He has not a more faithful subject than myself; nor have I ever done any thing to displease him." The king happened at that time to pass by the tower; and hearing the voice of the person he had once loved so well, he stopped to hear him, notwithstanding the persuasions of those that were with him, who, mortally hating Avenant, cried out, "why stands your majesty listening to that abandoned young rogue?" "Hold your peace," replied the king, "and let me hear him out." Which having done, and being greatly moved by his sufferings, the tears trickled down his cheeks: he opened the door of the tower, and called him by his name. Upon which Avenant came forth in a sad and pitiful condition, and, throwing himself at the king's feet, "What have I done, Sir," said he, "that your majesty should use me thus severely?" "Thou hast ridiculed me and my ambassador," replied the king; "and hast said, that if I had sent thee to the Fair One with Locks of Gold, thou couldst have brought her with thee." "It is true, Sir," replied Avenant, "for I would have so thoroughly convinced her of your transcending qualities, that it should not have been in her power to have denied me; and in this, surely, I said in the name of your majesty."

The king found in reality he had done no injury; so, casting an angry look on those who had spoken ill of his favourite, he took him away with him, repenting heartily of the wrong he had done him.

After having given him an excellent supper, the king sent for him into his cabinet; "Avenant," says he, "I still love the Fair One with Locks of Gold; and her refusal has not discouraged me; but I know not by what means I may gain her consent to marry me. I have a mind to send thee to her, to try whether thou canst succeed." Avenant replied, he was ready to obey his majesty in all things, and would depart the very next morning. "Hold," said the king, "I will provide thee first with a most sumptuous equipage." "There is no necessity for that," answered Avenant; "I need only a good horse, and your letters of credence." Upon this the king embraced him; being overjoyed to see him so soon ready.

It was upon a Monday morning that he took leave of the king and his friends, to proceed on his embassy all alone, without any pomp or noise: and thought of nothing as he went, but how to engage the Fair One with Locks of Gold to marry the king. He had a table-book in his pocket, and when any good thought came into his head, fit to be made use of in his speech, he alighted from his horse, and sitting under the shade of some tree, wrote it down in his book, that he might forget nothing.

One morning, being upon his journey by break of day, and entering into a spacious meadow, a fine thought came into his head: He alighted immediately, and seated himself under some willows and poplars planted along the bank of a little stream that watered one side of the meadow. After he had done writing, he looked about him every way, being charmed with the beauties of the place, and suddenly perceived a large gilded carp, which stirred a little, and that was all it could do, for having attempted to catch some little flies, it had leaped so

far out of the water, as to throw itself upon the grass, where it was almost dead, not being able to recover its natural element. Avenant took pity of the poor creature, and though it was a fish-day, and he might have carried it away for his dinner, he took it up, and gently put it again into the river, where the carp, feeling the refreshing coolness of the water, began to rejoice, and sunk to the bottom; but soon rising up again, brisk and gay, to the side of the river; "Avenant," said the carp, "I thank you for the kindness you have done me; had it not been for you, I had died; but you have saved my life, and I will reward you." After this short compliment, the carp darted itself to the bottom of the water, leaving Avenant not a little surprised at its wit and great civility.

Another day, as he was pursuing his journey, he saw a crow in great distress: The poor bird being pursued by a huge eagle, a great devourer of crows, which would have seized and swallowed it, as hogs do acorns, had not Avenant taken compassion on the unfortunate bird. Thus, said he, do the stronger oppress the weaker; for what right has the eagle to devour the crow? Saying this, he took his bow, which he always carried abroad with him, and aiming at the eagle, let fly an arrow, which pierced him through the body, so that he fell down dead; which the crow seeing, came in an ecstasy of joy, and perched upon a tree. "Avenant," said the crow, "you have been extremely generous, to succeur me, who am but a poor wretched crow; but I am not ungrateful, and will do you as good a turn."

Avenant admired the wit of the crow, and continuing his journey, he entered into a wood so early one morning, that he could hardly see his way, where he heard an owl crying out like an owl in despair. Surely, said he to himself, this owl, wherever it is, is in deep distress; and may perhaps be caught in some fowler's net. So looking about every where, he at length came to a place where certain fowlers had spread their nets in the night-time to catch

little birds. "What pity 'tis," said he, "men are only made to torment one another, or else to persecute poor animals who never do them any harm!" So saying, he drew his knife, cut the cords, and set the owl at liberty; who, before it took wing, said, "Avenant, it is not necessary I should say much, to make you sensible how greatly I am indebted to you: the action speaks for itself. The fowlers are coming, I should have been taken, and must have died, without your assistance: I have a grateful heart, and will remember it."

These were the three most remarkable adventures that befel Avenant in his journey. He was in so much haste to get to the end of it, that he lost no time; and when he arrived, he went immediately to the palace of the Fair One with Locks of Gold; where every thing he viewed was surprising: diamonds lay in heaps like common stones; and the treasury was so amazingly rich, and the wardrobe so wonderfully fine, that he thought, if the mistress of it should marry his master, he would be a happy man. He immediately washed himself, combed and powdered his hair, and put on a suit of cloth of gold; which having done, he put a rich embroidered scarf about his neck, with a small basket, wherein was a little dog which he was very fond of. And Avenant was so amiable, and did every thing with so good a grace, that when he presented himself at the gate of the palace, all the guards paid him great respect, and every one strove who should first give notice to the Fair One with Locks of Gold, that Avenant, the neighbouring king's ambassador, demanded audience.

The princess hearing the name of Avenant, said, "It has a pleasing sound, and I dare say he is agreeable and pleases every body." "Yes, indeed, madam," said her maids of honour, for we saw him out of the chamber window, where we prepare your majesty's flax for the wheel, and while he was under the window, we could not do any thing." "A pretty amusement indeed," replied the Fair One with Locks of Gold, "to

spend your time in staring upon handsome young men!—go,—fetch me my rich embroidered gown of blue satin, dress my hair, and bring my wreaths of fresh flowers: Let me have my high shoes, and my fan, and let my audience chamber and throne be clean, and richly adorned; for I would have him every where with truth say, that I am really the Fair One with Locks of Gold.

Thus all her women were employed to dress her as a queen should be; but they were in such haste, that they perplexed and hindered one another. At length, however, she went to her great gallery of looking-glasses, to see if anything was wanting; after which she ascended her throne of gold, ivory, and ebony, the fragrant smell of which was superior to the choicest balm. She also commanded her maids of honour to take their instruments, and play to their own singing so sweetly, that none should be disgusted.

Avenant was conducted into the chamber of audience, where he stood so transported with admiration, that, as he afterwards said, he had scarce power to open his lips. At length, however, he took courage, and made his speech wonderfully well; wherein he prayed the princess not to let him be so unfortunate as to return witnout her. "Gentle Avenant," said she, "all the reasons vou have laid before me, are very good: and I assure you, I would rather favour you than any other: but you must know, about a month since, I went to take the air by the side of a river, with my maids of honour; as I was pulling off my glove, I pulled a ring from my finger, which by accident fell into the river: this ring I valued more than my whole kingdom; whence you may judge how much I am afflicted for the loss of it: and I have made a vow never to hearken to any proposals of marriage, unless the ambassador who makes them, shall also bring me my ring. This is the present which you have to make me; otherwise you may talk your heart out, for months and even years shall never make me change my resolution."

Avenant stood astonished at this answer; but, however, at last he begged her to accept the little dog, together with the basket and scarf: but she replied, she would have none of his presents, and bade him think on what she had said to him.

When he returned to his lodgings, he went to bed supperless; and his little dog, who was called Cabriole, made a fasting night of it too, and went and lay down by his master; who did nothing all night but sigh and lament, saying, how can I find a ring that fell into a great river a month ago? It would be folly to attempt it. The princess enjoined me this task, merely because she knew it was impossible: he continued to be greatly afflicted; which Cabriole observing, said, "My dear master, pray do not despair of your good fortune; for you are too good to be unhappy; therefore, when it is day, let us go to the river side. Avenant made no answer, but gave his dog two little cuffs with his hand, and being overwhelmed with grief, fell asleep.

But when Cabriole perceived it was broad day, he fell a barking so loud that he waked his master, "Rise, Sir," said he, "put on your clothes, and let us go and try our fortune." Avenant took his little dog's advice; got up, and having dressed himself, went down into the garden, and out of the garden he walked insensibly to the river side, with his hat over his eyes, and his arms across, thinking of nothing but taking his leave; when all on a sudden he heard a voice call, "Avenant, Avenant!" upon which he looked around him, but seeing nothing, he concluded it was an illusion, and was proceeding in his walk; but he presently heard himself called again. "Who calls me?" said he.—Cabriole, who was very little, and looked closely into the water, cried out, "never believe me, if it is not a gilded carp." Immediately the carp appeared, and with an audible voice said, "Avenant, you saved my life in the poplar meadow, where I must have died without your assistance; and now I am come to requite your kindness: here, my dear Avenant, here is the ring which the Fair One with Locks of Gold dropt into

the river. Upon which he stooped and took it out of the carp's mouth; to whom he returned a thousand thanks.

And now, instead of returning home, he went directly to the palace with little Cabriole, who skipped about, and wagged his tail for joy that he had persuaded his master to walk by the side of the river. The princess being told that Avenant desired an audience: "Alas," said she, "the poor youth is come to take his leave of me! He has considered what I enjoined him as impossible, and is returning to his master." But Avenant being admitted, presented her the ring, saying, "Madam, behold I have executed your command; and now, I hope, you will receive my master for your royal consort." When she saw her ring, and that it was no ways injured, she was so amazed, that she could hardly believe her eyes. "Surely, courteous Avenant," said she, "you must be favoured by some fairy; for, naturally, this is impossible." "Madam," said he, "I am acquainted with no fairy; but I was willing to obey your command." "Well, then, seeing you have so good a will," continued she, "you must do me another piece of service, without which I will never marry. There is a certain prince who lives not far from hence, whose name is Galifron, and whom nothing would serve but that he must needs marry me. He declared his mind to me, with most terrible menaces, that if I denied him, he would enter my kingdom with fire and sword; but you shall judge whether I could accept his proposal: He is a giant, as high as a steeple; he devours men as an ape eats chesnuts; when he goes into the country, he carries cannons in his pocket, to use instead of pistols; and when he speaks aloud he deaffens the ears of those that stand near him. I answered him, that I did not chuse to marry, and desired him to excuse me. Nevertheless, he has not ceased to persecute me, and has put an infinite number of my subjects to the sword: therefore, before all other things you must fight him, and bring me his head."

Avenant was somewhat startled by this proposal; but, having considered it awhile, "Well, madam," said he, "I will fight this Galifron; I believe I shall be vanquished; but I will die like a man of courage." The princess was astonished at his intrepidity, and said a thousand things to dissuade him from it, but all in vain; and he retired to provide himself with proper weapons, and every thing else that was necessary. When he had got what he wanted, he put Cabriole in his little basket, mounted his flower of coursers, and being arrived in Galifron's kingdom, he demanded of all he met, where he might meet with him; and every body told him, he was such a demon, that nobody durst come near him; and the more this was confirmed to him, the greater were his fears. But Cabriole encouraged him, saying, "My dear master, when you are fighting with him, I will bite him by the legs; and while he looks behind him, to drive me away, you may take that opportunity to kill him." Avenant admired the wit and ingenuity of his little dog; but was sensible his assistance would not avail.

At length he arrived at Galifron's castle, the roads all the way being strewed with the bones and carcases of men, which the giant had devoured, or cut in pieces. And it was not long before he saw him come stalking through a wood, taller by the head than the highest trees, and with a dreadful voice singing, if it could be called singing, the following words:

> Oh, for a meal of children's flesh,
> Tender, young, new-killed, and fresh;
> My teeth are sharp, and half a score
> Would serve till I could get some more.

In answer to which, Avenant immediately sung the following:

> Approach and see your conqueror here,
> Who from thy jaws thy teeth will tear;
> Your barbarous deeds I will requite,
> And send your soul to endless night.'

These rhimes were none of the best; but considering they were made extempore, and Avenant at the

same time in a most terrible fright, it is a wonder they were no worse. When the caitiff heard them, he looked about, and at last perceived Avenant with his sword drawn, who called him by two or three injurious names, on purpose to provoke him. But there was no occasion for this, for being in a most dreadful passion, he lifted up his iron mace, and had certainly beat out the gentle Avenant's brains at the first blow, had not a crow at that instant perched upon the giant's head, and with his bill pecked out both his eyes: The blood trickled down his face, whereat he grew desperate, and laid about him on every side; but Avenant took care to avoid his blows, and gave him many great wounds with his sword, which he pushed up to the very hilt; so that the giant fainted, and fell down with loss of blood. Avenant immediately cut off his head; and while he was in an ecstasy of joy for his good success, the crow perched upon a tree, and said, "Avenant, I did not forget the kindness I received at your hands, when you killed the eagle that pursued me; I promised to make you amends, and now I have been as good as my word." "I acknowledge your kindness, Mr. Crow," replied Avenant; "I am still your debtor, and your servant." So saying, he mounted his courser, and rode away with the giant's horrid head.

When he arrived at the city, every body crowded after him, crying out, "Long live the valiant Avenant, who has slain the cruel monster:" So that the princess, who heard the noise, and trembled for fear she should have heard of Avenant's death, durst not enquire what was the matter. But presently after, she saw Avenant enter with the giant's head; at the sight of which she trembled, though there was nothing to fear. "Madam," said he, "behold your enemy is dead; and now, I hope, you will no longer refuse the king my master." "Alas!" replied the Fair One with Locks of Gold, "I must still refuse him, unless you can find means to bring me some of the water of the gloomy cave.

"Not far from hence," continued she, "there is a very

deep cave, about six leagues in compass; the entrance into which is guarded by two dragons. The dragons dart fire from their mouths and eyes; and when you have got into this cave, you will meet with a very deep hole, into which you must go down, and will find it full of toads, adders, and serpents.

"At the bottom of this hole there is a kind of cellar, through which runs the fountain of beauty and health. This is the water I must have; its virtues are wonderful; for the fair, by washing in it, preserve their beauty; and the deformed it renders beautiful; if they are young, it preserves them always youthful; and if old, it makes them young again. Now judge you, Avenant, whether I will ever leave my kingdom, without carrying some of this water along with me."

"Madam," said he, "you are so amiable, that this water will be of no use to you; but I am an unfortunate ambassador, whose death you seek. However, I will go in search of what you desire, though I am certain never to return." The Fair One with Locks of Gold did not alter her resolution; so Avenant departed, with his little dog, for the gloomy cave, in quest of the water of beauty and youth; and every body he met upon the road said, it was a thousand pities so amiable a youth should go to meet his death with so much cheerfulness. "He goes alone," continued they; "but were an hundred to go with him, they would all share the same fate. Why will the princess desire nothing but impossibilities?" said they. But Avenant continued his journey, without speaking a word, though he was very sad and pensive.

At length he arrived at the top of a mountain, where he sat down to rest himself; giving his horse liberty to feed, and Cabriole to run after the flies. He knew the gloomy cave was not far off, and looked about, to see whether he could discover it; and at length he perceived a horrid rock as black as ink, whence issued a thick smoke; and immediately after he spied one of the dragons casting forth fire from his jaws and eyes; his skin all over yellow and green, with prodi-

gious claws, and a long tail, rolled up in an hundred folds. Cabriole saw it also and knew not where to hide himself for fear.

Avenant, with a resolution to die in the attempt, drew his sword, and with the phial which the Fair One with Locks of Gold had given him to fill with the water of beauty, went towards the cave, saying to his little dog, "Cabriole, here is an end of me; I never shall be able to get this water, it is so well guarded by the dragons: therefore when I am dead, fill this phial with my blood, and carry it to the princess, that she may see what her severity has cost me: Then go to the king my master, and give him an account of my misfortunes." While he was saying this, he heard a voice call "Avenant, Avenant!" "Who calls me?" said he; and presently he spied an owl in the hole of an old hollow tree; who, calling to him again, said, "You rescued me out of the fowler's net, where I had been assuredly taken, had not you saved my life: I promised to make you amends, and now the time is come: give me your phial, I am acquainted with all the secret inlets into the gloomy cave, and will go and fetch you the water of beauty. Avenant most gladly gave the phial, and the owl entering without any impediment into the cave; filled it, and in less than a quarter of an hour returned with it well stopped. Avenant was overjoyed at his good fortune, gave the owl a thousand thanks, and returned with a merry heart to the city. Being arrived at the palace, he presented the phial to the Fair One with Locks of Gold, who had then nothing farther to say. She returned Avenant thanks, and gave orders for every thing that was requisite for her departure: after which she set forward with him. The Fair One with Locks of Gold thought Avenant very amiable, and said to him sometimes upon the road, if you had been willing, I could have made you a king; and then we need not have left my kingdom. But Avenant replied, I would not be guilty of such a piece of treachery to my master for all the kingdoms

of the earth; though I must acknowledge your beauties are more resplendant than the sun.

At length they arrived at the king's chief city, who understanding that the Fair One with Locks of Gold was arrived, he went forth to meet her, and made her the richest presents in the world. The nuptials were solemnized with such demonstrations of joy, that nothing else was discoursed of. But the Fair One with Locks of Gold, who loved Avenant in her heart, was never pleased but when she was in his company, and would be always speaking in his praise: "I had never come hither," said she to the king, "had it not been for Avenant, who, to serve me, has conquered impossibilities; you are infinitely, obliged to him; he procured me the water of beauty and health; by which I shall never grow old, and shall always preserve my health and beauty."

The enviers of Avenant's happiness, who heard the queen's words, went to the king, saying, "Were your majesty inclined to be jealous, you have reason enough to be so, for the queen is so desperately in love with Avenant, that she can neither eat nor drink for thinking on him; she does nothing but talk of him, and how much you are obliged to him; as if, had you sent any body else, they could not have done so much as he." "Indeed," said the king, "I am sensible of the truth of what you tell me; let him be put in the great tower, with fetters upon his feet and hands." Avenant was immediately seized; and in recompence for having served the king so well, confined in the great tower; where he saw nobody but the gailor, who at times brought him a little black bread and water, which he gave him through a lattice. However, his little dog Cabriole never forsook him; but cheered him the best he could, and brought him all the news of the court.

When the Fair One with Locks of Gold was informed of his misfortune, she threw herself at the king's feet, and all in tears besought him to release Avenant out of prison. But the more she besought him, the more was he incensed, believing it was her affection

that made her so zealous a suppliant in his behalf. Finding she could not prevail, she said no more to him, but grew very pensive and melancholy.

The king took it into his head that she did not think him handsome enough; so he resolved to wash his face with the water of beauty, in hopes the queen would then conceive a greater affection for him than she had. This water stood in a vial upon a table in the queen's chamber, where she had put it, that it might not be out of her sight. But one of the chamber-maids going to kill a spider with her besom, by accident threw down the phial, and broke it, so that all the water was lost. She dryed it up with all the speed she could, and not knowing what to do, she bethought herself that she had seen a phial of clear water in the king's cabinet very like that which she had broken: without any more ado, therefore, she went and fetched that vial, and set it upon the table in place of the other.

This water which was in the king's cabinet, was a certain water which he made use of to poison the great lords and princes of his court when they were convicted of any great crime; to which purpose, instead of cutting off their heads, or hanging them, he caused their faces to be rubbed with this water, which cast them into so profound a sleep, that they never waked again. Now the king one evening took this phial, and rubbed his face well with the water, after which he fell asleep and died. Cabriole was one of the first that came to the knowledge of this accident, and immediately ran to inform Avenant of it; who bid him go to the Fair One with Locks of Gold, and remind her of the poor prisoner.

Cabriole slipped unperceived through the crowd, for there was a great noise and hurry at court upon the king's death; and getting to the queen, "Madam," said he "remember poor Avenant." She presently called to mind the afflictions he had suffered for her sake, and his fidelity; without speaking a word, she went directly to the great tower, and took off the fetters from Avenant's feet and hands herself; after

which, putting the crown upon his head, and the royal mantle about his shoulders, "Amiable Avenant," said she, "I will make you a sovereign prince, and take you for my consort. Avenant threw himself at her feet, and in terms the most passionate and respectful returned her thanks. Every body was overjoyed to have him for their king: the nuptials were the most splendid in the world; and the Fair One with Locks of Gold lived a long time with her beloved Avenant, both happy and contented in the enjoyment of each other.

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